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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Restates Stand on Gulf Crisis

LD2408192890 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1815 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] Jeddah, 24 Aug (SPA)—Adnan 'Umran, assistant secretary-general of the Arab League, has stressed that the Arab League is for the safety of Kuwait and for the return of legitimacy there.

In a press statement published today, he further says: The Arab League is endeavoring to implement the Arab resolutions adopted at the Cairo emergency Arab summit, pointing out that the league is making political efforts to get out of the impasse resulting from Iraq's invasion and occupation of Kuwait.

The assistant secretary-general of the Arab League has also emphasized that the Arab stand on the gulf crisis is represented by the resolutions taken by the Arab League Council and the Arab emergency summit held in Cairo.

10 Countries Agree to Ministerial Meeting

NC2508144390 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] Citing diplomatic sources, KUNA says that 10 Arab countries have approved Egypt's call for holding a meeting of Arab foreign ministers. According to the sources, the 10 countries have agreed to hold the meeting on 30 August to discuss the developments of the grave situation in the Gulf region. KUNA adds that Iraq has notified competent officials that it is strongly opposed to such a meeting which, Iraq believes, will be used against it.

The sources did not mention the names of the countries that approved the holding of the meeting, but noted that intensive consultations are under way among Arab countries to obtain the approval of the largest possible number of Arab countries. The meeting will discuss the implementation of the decision passed at the recent Arab summit, calling on Iraq to withdraw its troops from Kuwait as soon as possible.

Sudanese, Libyan Officials To Visit Iraq

LD2608112590 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1100 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] Tripoli, 26 August (JANA)—JANA has learned that during the meeting held recently between the brother leader of the revolution and Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, the chairman of the Revolution Command Council in fraternal Sudan, it was agreed that Lieutenant General al-Bashir and Libya Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi will visit Iraq to find out the views of the Iraqi side on the Kuwait question.

Palestinian Affairs

Palestine National Council Team Departs for Iran

JN2508115290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1105 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] Amman, 25 Aug (INA)—Palestine National Council [PNC] Speaker Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih left for Tehran this morning on an official visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran heading a delegation at the invitation of the Iranian Majlis speaker. During the visit the Palestinian delegation will hold talks with Iranian officials on ways of mobilizing Islamic efforts to confront hostile imperialist schemes.

The Palestinian delegation is comprised of Muhammad Milhim, member of the PLO Executive Committee, and 'Abbas Zaki, member of the Fatah Central Committee.

'Arafat Discusses Gulf Crisis With Soviet Envoy

LD2608190690 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] In Baghdad the president leader Abu-Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] received at his residence the Soviet leadership's roving envoy for special tasks. During the meeting, the development of the situation in the region was reviewed in light of the dangerous escalation resulting from the influx of U.S. forces and their allies into the Gulf area and the continuous threat of an explosion of the situation in the region—a matter that threatens world peace and international security.

Brother Abu Amar stressed to the Soviet envoy that the Soviet Union should play a greater role in preventing the explosion of the critical situation, and in leaving the current crisis to the Arab nation, which will be able to find a suitable solution for it within the one Arab family and without external interference and threats. He reaffirmed that the PLO rejects the attempts of the United States to restore its domination over the region and impose its conditions.

A comprehensive review was also made of the situation in the occupied territories, the need to continue efforts to end the Zionist occupation of the Palestinian territories, and the need for the Palestinian people to exercise their right to self-determination and the building of an independent state.

Commentary on Role of Palestinians in Gulf Crisis

LD2408201890 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] [passage indistinct] Everyone knows that the civilization about which some people in the Gulf boast would not have been their pride had it not been for the young Palestinian hands which worked with ability, eagerness, and devotion. They raised the building so that

it became a historical testimony to the generous Palestinian hand which turned the Arab desert into gardens of Eden. Arab minds and hearts were not able to deal with the wealth God had provided and the blessings He had bestowed on them. This blessed hand today faces those who do not understand the noble nature of hospitality and who cannot equal the magnitude of giving, and show ingratitude to these giving hands.

We say this when we hear the humbug and allegations against the Palestinians in the diaspora being broadcast by some Arab and foreign media designed to harm their loyalty to their Arabism and incite Arab public opinion against them, to make it grow hostile to them, in order to serve the objectives and intentions of the enemies of the nation who continue to plot against them.

The PLO, in a recent statement, disclosed practices to which Palestinians in the Gulf are being subjected in response to these hostile allegations. The PLO disclosed the neutral Palestinian role since the outbreak of the crisis, thus making it the most influential Arab side to be able to continue playing the role of mediator between the brothers in order to keep the crisis within the Arab context.

While we see the active Palestinian move to contain the crisis in the Gulf as the sincere expression of the sentiments and feelings of the Palestinian and Arab masses, who believe that the solution should be within the Arab framework, we hope that the brothers who themselves warned against falling for the tricks of the plot which was originally hatched for the Cairo summit, will rally to the PLO and to [words indistinct], and cut off the road before the enemies who strive to hit it and undermine its successes.

Qaddumi Says PLO Initiative 'Constructive'

JN2408151690 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Interview with Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, by an unidentified Iraqi radio and television reporter; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Mr. Faruq Qaddumi, foreign minister of the State of Palestine, what do you say about the U.S.-Zionist presence in the land of holy Islamic places?

[Qaddumi] First, the State of Palestine firmly stands against foreign intervention in the affairs of the Arab nation. The State of Palestine has stated most clearly that it firmly stands alongside Iraq against all possibilities of aggression against the Arab nation. The Palestinian revolution has for a long time adopted a heroic stand against all Zionist and imperialist intervention in the Arab nation's affairs. Thus, Palestine and the Palestinian people, through their daily acts, affirm unwavering determination to continue armed struggle to liberate their land and holy places from Zionism, Israel, and U.S. imperialism.

[Report] Your excellency the minister, how do you view this U.S.-Zionist onslaught and war escalation against Iraq through the deployment of fleets?

[Qaddumi] The state of Palestine stands firmly alongside fraternal Iraq in the glorious defense of its territory against all possibilities of foreign aggression—particularly U.S. aggression—and against this frantic onslaught against Iraq, which fought for eight years to defend its territory and the eastern flank of the Arab nation. We stand alongside Iraq to defeat all these colonialist armies trying to harm it; their destiny will be nothing but failure and defeat, God willing.

[Reporter] How do you assess the initiatives of President Saddam Husayn to settle all crises in the region?

[Qaddumi] Struggler President Saddam Husayn's initiative and the linking of all withdrawals, especially from our occupied Palestinian land, the occupation of which is the root of all crises arising in the region, is a positive initiative that constitutes the basis for a just peace in the region. Without withdrawal from our occupied territories, there will be no peace in the land of peace.

[Reporter] What is required from Arabs in relation to the dangers not only to Iraq, but also to the existence of the entire Arab nation?

[Qaddumi] Arab solidarity, joint Arab action, and a firm stand against this frenzied onslaught are required from the Arab nation. The State of Palestine has also presented a constructive initiative to consolidate Arab cohesion and bolster joint Arab action to repulse this frenzied onslaught.

[Reporter] Thank you, Mr. Faruq Qaddumi.

Extols Saddam Initiative

JN2608123090 Baghdad INA in English 0940 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, Aug. 25, INA—Mr Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department and Foreign Minister stressed that Palestine decisively stands against any foreign military presence in the region.

Speaking at a televised interview here last night, Mr Qaddumi said that the State of Palestine had candidly declared its decisive stand alongside Iraq and extolled, in reference to President Husayn's initiative, the contents of that initiative which stressed on the necessity of the Zionist entity's witdrawal from the occupied Palestinian territories.

He said that this initiative could serve as the base for laying down principles of just peace in the region and that without withdrawals from our occupied territories, there would be no peace in the region.

The Palestinian official added that Arab solidarity and joint Arab action together with a decisive stand against this feverish imperialist attack are required at present from the Arab nation.

He said that the State of Palestine had tabled a constructive initiative for boosting Arab solidarity and joint action against this attack.

Islamic Jihad Rejects U.S. 'Crusade' in Gulf

JN2408111290 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 24 Aug 90 p 11

[Statement by the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine; place and date not given]

[Text] O masses of our Arab and Islamic nation: It seems that the United States was waiting for the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in order to mobilize all its forces and that of the NATO in a new crusade against the Arab and Islamic nation. By doing so, it wants to assert its hegemony over this region as well as the world, and to control the sources of oil and wealth reminding us of the policy of the armada and the story of old colonialism.

The smooth advance of the invading U.S. troops toward the sources of oil and the holy places affirms the fragility of the Arab order and the weakness of the Arab situation, hidden for many years behind the slogans of solidarity and cooperation councils which appeared today to be like carded wool [part of Koranic verse] after the arrival of the U.S. Army on the outskirts of the Kaaba at bases that were prepared in advance to receive them.

America's excuse for the invasion is the illegitimacy of modifying borders by force. Where was America when Bayt al-Maqdis [Jerusalem], the Golan, and Sinai were occupied? It was financing, arming, and encouraging the occupation. This colonialist invasion aims at emphasizing the hegemony and control of the West, continuing divisions, and safeguarding and supporting the Zionist entity to liquidate our people, our cause, and our blessed intifadah. The colonialist invasion also aims at standing in the face of the Islamic awakening.

Therefore, we in the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine declare our rejection and confrontation of this American invasion, and of all the slogans and titles under and through which it moves. We also call on the masses of the Arab and Islamic nation, all mujahidin, and faithful revolutionaries to confront the invading forces and explode the earth beneath them, so they will return disappointed or be buried in the desert.

Taking the Iraqi invasion as an excuse cannot justify placing the Arab nation, its resources, and holy places under the boots of the American soldiers. The Arab and Islamic nation should resolve its problems by itself, apart from foreign hegemony. The Iraqi-Kuwaiti problem should be resolved through the will of each of the Kuwaiti and Iraqi people supported by a united Arab and Islamic stance that rejects foreign interference and calls for the withdrawal of the foreign forces.

Death is the lot of the invaders. Long live Palestine. God is great and pride is the lot of Islam.

[Signed] The Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine.

Rift, 'Divisive Actions' Reported Within DFLP

'Abd-Rabbuh Accuses Hawatimah

NC2508144990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1312 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] Tunis, 25 Aug (MENA)—Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member and assistant secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], has accused Front leader Nayif Hawatimah of continuing his divisive actions which are assuming a military form.

In a statement published here today, 'Abd-Rabbuh says that upon Hawatimah's directions, a group of fighters occupied a DFLP camp in Damascus last Tuesday [21 August]. He points out that Hawatimah plans to occupy other posts. 'Abd-Rabbuh says that the DFLP and the Palestinian national movement do not comprise offices and positions as much as they consist of masses and struggling forces inside and outside the occupied homeland.

'Abd-Rabbuh calls on Hawatimah to stop this self-destructive method, safeguard the DFLP's unity, and discard the policy of division and dissension.

Spokesman Responds

JN2608144790 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] In Damascus, the spokesman for the political bureau of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine under Nayif Hawatimah has expressed regret over the statements made by Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh recently in which he spoke about occupation and storming operations aganst DFLP offices and positions. These statemenis have caused a fabricated uproar about a rift in DFLP ranks.

However, the DFLP spokesman said that attempts in the past few days were made by some elements to attack some of the DFLP offices and positions in Damascus, but that they were repulsed. The spokesman confirmed that all DFLP offices abide by the party's legitimacy under Nayif Hawatimah.

Algeria

Al-Qadhdhafi Arrives, Comments on Talks, Gulf

AB2508132590 Dakar PANA in English 1732 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] Algiers, 24 Aug (PANA)—The Libyan leader, Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, arrived Friday [24 August] in Algiers from Rabat where he said he had a fruitful exploratory meeting with President Hissein Habre of Chad in the presence of King Hassan II of Morocco.

He told Algerian journalists on arrival in Algiers that although the two sides did not reach a definitive solution to the Chad-Libya conflict, the meeting was interesting and capable of opening the path to the solution.

On the Gulf crisis, Col. Al-Qadhdhafi said only an Arab solution was capable of ending it. He regretted, however, that the inability of Arabs to find a solution to the problem had paved the way to foreign intervention which had complicated matters.

Al-Qadhdhafi told the journalists that his visit to Algeria was part of consultations between the two countries on the current problems, on threats to the Arab nation and on anti-Arab plots by the imperialists.

Further on Stopover, Comments

LD2408180490 Tripoli JANA in English 1629 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] Algiers, Hannibal [August] 24, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution arrived in Algiers at 2.15 p.m. (according to the time of Great al-Jamahiriyah).

He was officially welcomed by President Bendjedid of sisterly Algeria at Boumediene Airport.

He was also received by the premier, Mr. Hamrouche, and by the members of the cabinet and senior officers and members of the Libyan Arab Brotherhood Bureau.

He was accompanied on this visit by Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi.

Earlier this afternoon, he left Rabat after concluding his visit to sisterly Morocco lasting three days.

Commenting to Algerian media organs, the leader of the revolution has said:

I have wanted to stop in Algiers to greet first President Chadli and the brotherly Algerian people discussing the present problem relating to the Arab Maghreb Union on the one hand and the dangers posed against the Arab nation and the imperialist onslaught on the Arab nation on the other hand.

He has pointed out that the situation is worsening, we must discuss it because it is very, very critical. [sentence and punctuation as received]

Replying to a question on the meeting held in Morocco between him and the Chadian President Habre, he said:

This meeting was preparatory in general... We shed light on the problem... It was a useful meeting. It had no final solution, but it was useful in opening up the road anyhow.

In reply to a question saying that some analysts see that the solution of the Gulf crisis lies in Arab hands... How can this be achieved and what are the potentials of the Arab nation to solve this problem? he said:

This is what ought to be done. This is to say, the solution to the problem must be Arab solution, but what there is available is different. We have been unable to solve the problem. As such, we have given a chance to the foreigners to interfere and complicate the problem by themselves.

Ends Visit, Departs

LD2408180790 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Exerpt] The leader of the Libyan revolution, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, left Algeria following a brief stop during which he had talks with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, who saw him off at the airport. [passage omitted]

Ministry Declines Comment on Delegation Statements

LD2308114590 Algiers APS in English 1013 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Algiers, 23 August (APS)—The authorized milieux of the Foreign Ministry refused to comment on the statements attributed by press agencies to the delegation of the People's National Assembly in Damascus concerning the Gulf crisis. The same milieux recall the Algerian official position which, they said, has been clearly expressed by the head of state and the foreign minister.

Hamrouche Assesses Tiaret Farm, Youth Reforms

LD2208152590 Algiers APS in English 1021 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] Tiaret, 22 August (APS)—The head of government, Mouloud Hamrouche, paid Tuesday [21 August] a working and inspection visit to the Wilaya (Province) of Tiaret (340 kms south-west of Algiers) in order to assess the implementation of measures undertaken in the frame of reforms started in the field of agriculture and the creation of youth employment.

During this visit, the head of government held a series of discussions and meetings with local authorities, the elected officials and the youth on the problems the area is facing. Hamrouche also discussed with young agriculturists on the problems they are facing in the daily and professional life.

Answering these grievances, the head of government assured his interlocutors that the state was firmly determined to invest as much as it could in order to solve the problems of citizens, particularly of youth. "What we

want you to do," he told the youngsters, "is to get rid of the position of assisted persons which was yours in the past and turn towards a dynamic action supported by concrete initiatives and proposals. We are here to help you realize them", he added.

The head of government, who admitted that the economic situation in Algeria was difficult given the persistence of the international economic crisis, said that this situation is not irreversible. Concerning this point, he said "We can not create richnesses but we must regain confidence in ourselves and believe in our capacities to generate hope again and recreate a dynamic of development at the service of all the national collectivity".

It is worth recalling that the head of government visited during his stay in the area a number of agricultural and economic realizations that will enable to create a number of jobs, mainly for youth and thus decrease the rate of unemployment.

Stresses Food Self-Sufficiency

LD2308143990 Algiers APS in English 1011 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Excerpts] Algiers, 23 August (APS)—Agriculture and youth employment in this sector were at the center of the working and inspection visit paid by the head of government, Mouloud Hamrouche, to the Wilaya (Province) of Tiaret (340 kms south-west of Algiers). [passage omitted]

During his meeting with the local authorities and the elected officials of the Wilaya, Hamrouche reaffirmed once more the determination of his government to carry out reforms undertaken in the field of agriculture. "The spirit of these reforms is to establish an umbilical link, a holy link between the peasant and the land he is is working".

The head of government said we must clean a sector which suffered a lot from a number of ups and downs without falling into errors and injustices. The cleaning of the agricultural sector must, according to Hamrouche, assure a larger perspective, the emergence of conditions likely to favor its development mainly through an extension of agricultural lands. "The finality, he said, is to create all the necessary conditions so as to raise the standard of living of peasants and increase production in order to assure the food security of our nation".

The head of government further recalled that Algeria imported at present 64 per cent of its food. In this context, he recalled the situation prevailing in Iraq which is subject to an untolerable hunger blackmail through an unprecedented blockade in the history of the contemporary world.

"The situation that has been imposed on Iraq to starve its people and make them kneel is an example we must meditate", Hamrouch said to underline the reality of the blackmail of the food weapon and the urgency and take in charge the question of the food independence of Algeria.

Justice Minister Ali Benflis Departs for Cuba

LD2608115790 Algiers APS in English 1116 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] Algiers, 26 Aug (APS)—Minister of Justice, Ali Benflis, undertook yesterday an official visit to Cuba at the head of an important ministerial delegation to take part in the 8th UN international congress for the prevention of crimes and treatment of delinquents that will take place in Havana starting from tomorrow to September 7 1990.

This international congress held under the aegis of the UN each five years will examine questions relative to the crime prevention and the penal justice within the frame of development, policies as regards penal justice, penology substitution punishments, prevention and treatment of juvenile delinquency, as well as national and international measures of struggle against the criminal activities. On the margin of the Algerian delegation participation in the [word indistinct] of this world congress, Ali Benflis as well as his Cuban counterpart will sign an agreement on bilateral judicial corporation.

Egypt

Envoy Says Embassy in Kuwait To Remain Open

NC2408143190 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] Nabil Ibrahim, Egyptian ambassador in Bahrain, stated today that the Egyptian Embassy in Kuwait will not be closed in spite of the Iraqi's decision that all diplomatic missions in Kuwait must be shut by midnight tonight, at the latest. The Egyptian ambassador added that the Egyptian Embassy in Kuwait will continue to carry out its tasks of providing care for the Egyptian community of 120,000 people in Kuwait.

Ministry Issues Statement

NC2408194090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1830 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 24 Aug (MENA)—The Arab Republic of Egypt has decided to maintain the Egyptian Embassy and Consulate in Kuwait.

The Foreign Ministry has issued a statement to this effect, saying:

Within the framework of Egypt's endorsement of the Arab League Council's Resolution No. 5036 issued at its extraordinary meeting on 3 August in Cairo, of UN Security Council Resolution No. 662 issued on 8 August, and of the Arab emergency summit's Resolution No. 195 issued at its 10 August meeting in Cairo, all of which maintain that the Iraqi Government's decision to annex the sisterly state of Kuwait is legally groundless, that it is therefore null and void, and that all of its consequences are illegal; and out of Egypt's eagerness to protect the interests of the Egyptians working or residing in Kuwait;

the Arab Republic of Egypt has decided to keep open its embassy and consulate in Kuwait.

The Foreign Ministry's statement adds: The Egyptian Government wishes to recall that in accordance with the provisions of the Vienna treaty governing diplomatic and consular privileges and immunities and in accordance with international law and norms, the Iraqi authorities in Kuwait are responsible for the safety of all Egyptian diplomats working in the sisterly state of Kuwait. These authorities are also fully responsible for the protection of the Egyptian Embassy and Consulate in Kuwait, as well as the homes of Egyptian diplomats.

The Egyptian Government hopes that the Iraqi authorities will observe the provisions of the Vienna treaty concerning diplomatic and consular privileges and immunities, refrain from any action that would constitute a violation of these provisions, and enable the Egyptian diplomats to perform their duties in a normal manner.

Embassy Working 'as Usual'

NC2508142890 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] In Cairo, a Foreign Ministry official today said that the Egyptian Embassy in Kuwait is conducting business as usual and that Iraqi authorities have not forced it to close. The official said that matters are normal and communications have not been severed. He also noted that there are 20 staffers currently working at the embassy in Kuwait.

Turkey's Bozer Meets Mubarak, Discusses Gulf

TA2708104990 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 1000 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Ali Bozer, who has held contacts on the Gulf crisis in Syria and Jordan, was received by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak this morning. After the meeting which lasted over an hour, Bozer and Egyptian Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif briefed reporters on the meeting. According to the report of Turkish Radio and Television correspondent Atilla Caliskan, Bozer said that during the meeting Mubarak explained the Egyptian approach to the Gulf crisis. Bozer added that he briefed Mubarak on Turkey's approach to the problem. He said: I would like to express my satisfaction over the fact that there is a parallel between the Turkish and Egyptian policies on the issue.

Egyptian Information Minister al-Sharif said that, at the meeting, Bozer gave Mubarak an oral message on the Gulf crisis from Turkish President Turgut Ozal. In his message, Ozal notes that the crisis can be solved through international efforts. Al-Sharif added that Mubarak sent a message to Ozal on his views regarding the Gulf problem.

Al-Asad Phones Mubarak To Discuss Developments

NC2308195190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1940 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 23 Aug (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received a telephone call from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad this evening. During the call, regional developments were discussed.

To Meet Mubarak 26 Aug

JN2508204590 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2010 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Excerpt] Informed Egyptian sources told our radio that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad will arrive in Alexandria tomorrow for talks with President Husni Mubarak on Gulf developments.

It was learned that the Egyptian-Syrian meeting is to discuss all the current options in the region. An agreement to hold this meeting was reached during the telephone conversation between the two presidents the day before yesterday on the needed pressure to solve the Gulf problem peacefully. [passage omitted]

Visit Postponed

NC2608101590 Paris AFP in English 1007 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, Aug 26 (AFP)—Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has postponed a visit to Egypt that was to start Sunday and focus on the Gulf crisis, an Egyptian official said.

The official said the visit was being postponed rather than cancelled, but he gave no reason.

In line with a decision adopted by a majority of Arab League states, Egypt and Syria have deployed troops to protect Saudi Arabia following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on August 2.

Syria announced earlier Sunday that it was opening its border to all "Arabs and foreigners" seeking to leave Iraq.

The announcement followed a report that seven Britons and an Australian crossed the border, which had been closed since Damascus and Baghdad broke off diplomatic relations ten years ago.

Foreign Minister Gives News Conference on Gulf

NC2608130090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1115 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 26 Aug (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has expressed the hope that a military solution will not be the only way of confronting the Gulf crisis. He asserted that Egypt, which is convinced that war will bring destruction and ruin to the region, is doing its utmost to ensure that a political solution succeeds.

This came at a news conference which Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid held at the Foreign Ministry this morning and which was attended by foreign news agency and newspaper correspondents.

At the beginning of his news conference, Dr.'Abd-al-Majid reviewed the development of the Gulf crisis and Egypt's stance. He emphasized Egypt's principled stand against Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. He noted that Egypt had clarified this stand on numerous occasions and by supporting the resolutions which were passed on the issue.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid went on to describe how, prior to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on 2 August, President Husni Mubarak, in concert with several other Arab leaders, tried to attain a peaceful settlement of the Iraqi-Kuwaiti dispute over oil prices and the border issue. He explained that the serious contacts which were held regrettably failed and Iraq invaded Kuwait on 2 August while the Islamic foreign ministers were meeting in Cairo.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid continued reviewing the developments of the Gulf crisis since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on 2 August and said that the Kuwaiti delegation to the Islamic foreign ministers conference under way in Cairo requested that an urgent meeting of Arab foreign ministers be held to discuss the situation.

He noted that numerous attempts were made to resolve the problem, that Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Sa'dun Hammadi arrived in Cairo and addressed the Arab foreign ministers on Friday, 3 August. Hammadi informed them in categorical terms that Iraq's position was that "there is no such thing as Kuwait" because, according to him, it had become "part of Iraq".

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that the majority of Arabs opposed this Iraqi decision. He explained that only the PLO supported this Iraqi stand.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that 14 Arab countries approved the resolution adopted by the Arab foreign ministers at their meeting in Cairo on 3 August, the day after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. He explained that the resolution called for the withdrawal of Iraqi Forces from Kuwait and the restoration of its legitimate government. He added that some countries abstained while Iraq objected to the resolution on the grounds that it failed to obtain the unanimous approval required for such resolutions.

Continuing his review of the development of the crisis, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that on the day following the foreign ministers' meeting in Cairo, the Islamic ministerial conference issued a resolution, approved by a majority of 45 votes, demanding the unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait and the restoration of its legitimate government.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister said that Saudi Arabia and some other Gulf countries requested that forces be dispatched to protect them. 'Abd-al-Majid stressed that this request proceeded from their right to self-defense.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid referred to the resolutions issued by the UN Security Council since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, noting that it issued several resolutions on the crisis beginning with Resolution 660 all the way to Resolution 665.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister asserted that Egypt is following up these developments and hopes that a peaceful solution to the crisis will be found. He noted that President Husni Mubarak addressed an appeal to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn within this framework. He noted that the appeal was the second attempt by President Mubarak to avoid "a terrible and destructive conflict" in the region.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid also referred to the decision issued by the emergency Arab summit held in Cairo on 10 August on Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. He said that Article 7 of this decision requests the Arab League secretary general to submit a report within 15 days to the Arab foreign ministers concerning the position of each Arab state regarding the implementation of this decision. Accordingly, he added, Egypt called for a meeting of the Arab foreign ministers in Cairo on 26 August, which was later postponed to 30 August, to hear the Arab League secretary general's report on the position of each state regarding the implementation of the decision.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid expressed the hope that the meeting will be held in Cairo, adding that so far 10 Arab states have cabled their approval of the meeting to the Arab League, and that more are expected to follow suit.

Concluding his review of the developments of the Gulf crisis, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid emphasized that the Egyptian position on this matter can be summed up as commitment to the need to exert all efforts to seek the liberation of Kuwait and the restoration of legitimacy there. He expressed the hope and the conviction that Kuwait will regain its freedom.

After reviewing the developments in the crisis since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid responded to questions from the reporters present. Asked about Egypt's position regarding the Security Council's recent resolution on the crisis, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said Egypt supports these resolutions [as received] beginning with Resolution 660 and including Resolution 661, which concerns enforcing the embargo on Iraq. He added that we believe in the importance of working within the United Nations, which is the the best approach. He stressed that the latest Security Council resolution should indicate to Iraq that the whole world rejects the Iraqi invasion as well as all the measures it has adopted.

Asked about the number of Egyptians who have returned from Iraq and Kuwait, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid pointed out that 85,000 have returned so far, adding that Egypt expects the number of returnees to reach 300,000.

In response to a question on the PLO's position toward the developments in the Gulf crisis since the invasion of Kuwait, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said: The Palestinians have

tried to clarify their position, but I must say that we are not convinced by their clarifications. He added: The Palestinians have the right to adopt whatever position they want, but we disagree with this position.

Regarding the views of the two superpowers on the crisis, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said we want the them to be in agreement on this crisis. He added that was evident in the vote on the Security Council's latest resolution. Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid described this agreement between the two superpowers as historic. He expressed his belief that countries cannot disagree about the invasion of one country by another.

Regarding his visit to Moscow that will start tomorrow, Monday [27 August], Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid pointed out that the visit is part of the ongoing intensive contacts and consultations to reach a peaceful solution to the current crisis in the Gulf. He added that while in Moscow he will meet with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze to discuss the developments in the region as well as the ongoing efforts to attain stability and peace in the Middle East.

On Egypt's stand toward the Palestinian cause in view of the PLO stand on the Gulf crisis, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid asserted that Egypt has supported and will continue to support the Palestinian cause, regardless of differences in Egypt's and the PLO's views on the Gulf crisis. He stressed that Egypt has made certain commitments to the Palestinian cause.

Asked if there were Iraqi bases in Sudan, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid denied any knowledge of such a thing.

On the possibility of an Iraqi attack against Israel, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid ruled out the possibility, expressing the hope that such a thing will not happen.

Commenting on claims that the presence of foreign forces in the Gulf poses a threat to the holy places in Saudi Arabia, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid expressed his belief that "there is absolutely no threat to the holy places." He asserted that the continued presence of friendly forces in the region "depends" on the present crisis.

On the status of the Egyptian Embassy in Kuwait, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid asserted that Egypt has refused to move the Egyptian Embassy from Kuwait since the beginning. He asserted that the embassy will remain until we see what happens to the Egyptian ambassador there. He added that the Egyptian ambassador in Kuwait had asserted that he will be the last ambassador to leave Kuwait, should he be compelled to do so. He noted that the embassy building is surrounded by Iraqi troops and that water and electricity were still being supplied to the embassy.

Touching on the Egyptian people's stand on the Gulf crisis, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said the Egyptians support President Mubarak and the Egyptian Government in all their decisions in connection with the issue. He asserted that the Egyptian press is free and that many articles reflecting Egyptian public opinion have been published.

In this respect, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid asserted that it is not a matter of foreign forces in the vicinity of the holy places, but rather one of Iraqi aggression against Kuwait. Any other presentation of the issue would be a deliberate reshuffling of the cards, he said.

Concluding his news conference, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid asserted that Egypt will continue to do its utmost to find a peaceful solution through the withdrawal of Iraqi troops and the restoration of Kuwaiti legitimacy. He said: We have heard a lot of talk about withdrawal from Kuwait, and what we want right now is practical steps in that direction. He added that the entire world agrees on the need for the Iraqis to withdraw and for Kuwaiti legitimacy to be restored.

Special Envoys Head for Moscow, Paris

'Abd-al-Majid, Ghali To Go

NC2508055490 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0335 GMT 25 Aug 90

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-AHRAM reports on Egypt's diplomatic activities at the international level to explain its stand on the Gulf crisis. It says that President Muhammad Husni Mubarak will dispatch a number of envoys to various capitals to explain this stand and stress Egypt's desire to reach a peaceful solution to this crisis.

Under the headline "Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid in Moscow Within Two Days," AL-JUMHURIYAH reports that Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, will leave for Moscow within the next 48 hours on a three-day visit during which he will hold talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze on efforts to contain through peaceful means the current explosive situation in the Gulf.

Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, will arrive in Paris tomorrow, Sunday [26 August].

'Abd-al-Majid Comments

NC2508142490 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said today that his visit to Moscow tomorrow and Dr. Butrus Ghali's visit to Paris, at President Mubarak's instructions, fall within the framework of Egypt's diplomatic efforts to explain to friendly countries the Egyptian viewpoint on the Gulf crisis. Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid told reporters that Egypt is careful to avert a destructive war in the region. Egypt's stand on this is clear-cut and is reflected in all Egyptian moves, he said, adding: The Iraqi side must be responsive. The Egyptian stand on the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and the restoration of Kuwaiti legitimacy must be fully understood.

On whether there is a chance for finding an Arab solution to contain the crisis, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said the Arab solution was included in the resolution of the emergency Arab summit. We respect and work for implementation of that resolution. We hope this issue will be discussed during the upcoming Arab foreign ministers' meeting in Cairo, he said.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said Egypt maintains a clear stand on the issue of foreign embassies in Kuwait, as the Foreign Ministry announced in the statement it issued yesterday. We are waiting for reactions, he said.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said Egypt regards the Iraqi decision to move embassies from Kuwait as illegal.

Depart With Messages

NC2608143990 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Cairo for Moscow this afternoon for a 48-hour visit. He will deliver a handwritten message to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev from President Mubarak. The message deals with the latest developments in the Gulf crisis.

Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, left Cairo for Paris this afternoon. Before leaving, Dr. Ghali stated that he is carrying a handwritten message to French President Francois Mitterrand from President Husni Mubarak. Dr. Ghali will hold talks tomorrow with Roland Dumas, French minister of state for foreign affairs.

Dr. Ghali noted that the goal of the visit is to hold consultations and coordinate with France on the Gulf crisis.

Foreign Ministry Team Leaves for Jordan

NC2608070690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0642 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 26 Aug (MENA)—A working group from the Egyptian Foreign Ministry led by Ambassador Ahmad al-Ghamrawi left Cairo for Jordan early today to support the Egyptian diplomatic mission there under the current conditions and facilitate the return of Egyptians from Kuwait and Iraq through Jordan.

The group's leader said that his team will also assist the Egyptian Embassy in Amman and the consulate in al-'Aqabah in their efforts to investigate and meet the needs of these Egyptians.

Kuwait's Al-'Awadi on Prospects for Solution

NC2408191990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1637 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 24 Aug (MENA)—Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman al-'Awadi, Kuwaiti minister of state for cabinet affairs, has expressed the view that there is still a chance for Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to reverse his position. Citing the proverb "It is a virtue to return to the right way," al-'Awadi said that Iraq ought to withdraw from Kuwait and the legitimate government ought to be restored there.

In an interview with the magazine UKTUBAR to appear in its 26 August edition, al-'Awadi said that Kuwait does not reject dialogue, despite all that has happened, but it will need Arab guarantees. He added that Kuwait will never again accept illusions and promises.

Al-'Awadi said that there is another option for resolving the Kuwait crisis, which is that the Arabs impose a solution on President Saddam. There is also a need to form a strong Arab army, he noted.

Al-'Awadi said: There is always the military solution, which is nothing to look forward to since it will be destructive.

Al-'Awadi mentioned that it is necessary, by all accounts, to find a quick solution to the issue, for this will be in the interests of the Arab people as well as in Iraq's interests. Otherwise, the passage of time will take the urgency out of the issue and the Iraqi people will be starved by the international blockade.

Asked about the reservations that some Arab countries have voiced concerning the presence of foreign forces in Arab territories, al-'Awadi said that the foreign troops have arrived at Kuwait's request. Al-'Awadi said that the Kuwaiti land is unfortunately under occupation and that Kuwait asked its Arab brothers for help, but they were not forthcoming.

Al-'Awadi added that Kuwait has the right to complain to the Arab League in accordance with the Arab joint defense treaty and Article Two of the Arab League's charter, which is based on Article 51 of the UN charter and gives every country the right to take every possible measure to defend itself if its security is threatened. Kuwait found the United Nations more forthcoming than the Arab world, he noted.

As for the role of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] in the Kuwaiti crisis, al-'Awadi said that in light of its resources, the GCC's political and military role has been positive.

Dr. al-'Awadi described as mere tactics Saddam Husayn's initiative concerning the pullout of troops from Iran and the revival of the Algiers agreement. Saddam hoped that Iran will become a loophole in the economic embargo on Iraq, but the Iranians fully understood his game for they have extensive experience with Saddam and do not trust his next move, al-'Awadi said.

As for the real magnitude of the Kuwaiti resistance at home, al-'Awadi said: Every Kuwaiti, whether at home or abroad, will become an element of resistance. The invaders will not enjoy a moment of peace as long as one Kuwaiti is still alive. He noted that the legitimate government is in constant touch with Kuwaiti national elements.

Kuwaiti National Assembly President Visits

NC2408210490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1944 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 24 Aug (MENA)—'Abd-al-'Aziz Fahd al-Masa'id, president of the Kuwaiti National Assembly and dean of the Kuwaiti press, arrived in Cairo today at the request of the Kuwaiti National Assembly to meet President Husni Mubarak and thank him and the Egyptian people for their national and pan-Arab stand concerning the Kuwaiti people.

In an arrival statement, al-Masa'id said that he came to Egypt to pay tribute to Egypt and its president. Manal al-Rifa'i, chief editor of the Kuwaiti magazine AL-NAHDAH, also made a statement saying that "Saddam's invasion made no dent in our pan-Arab feelings and identity."

MENA Views Saddam Message to Mubarak

NC2308191090 Cairo MENA in English 1814 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, Aug. 23—(MENA)—President Saddam Husayn today negatively replied to the appeal addressed to him by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak on Tuesday [21 August] demanding withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait to avoid a devastating confrontation in the Gulf region.

Instead of responding to President Mubarak's appeal which aimed at avoiding for Iraq and the Arabs a terrifying crisis because of the Iraqi army's occupation of Kuwait, the Iraqi president attacked President Mubarak's decision to send troops to Saudi Arabia describing its rulers as corrupted and conspirators.

The announcer over Baghdad Radio read out what he termed as "an open message addressed from President Saddam Husayn to President Husni Mubarak" but the said message ignored the real reason of the crisis and focused on attacking King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the amir of Kuwait.

The Iraqi president dwelt long on his theory of the rich and poor of the Arab world, claiming that this [words indistinct] Arab oil tycoons.

President Saddam reiterated what he called "Iraq's historic claim in Kuwait" saying it is part of Iraq that has been restored.

Throughout his message, the Iraqi president ignored the real reason of the crisis, namely the occupation of Kuwait and threatening Saudi Arabia which brought to the area the foreign troops and navies.

More on Saddam Response

NC2408170890 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1140 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Commentary by Zayn al-Ja'fari: "The Iraqi Statement: A Disappointment to the Hopes of the Arab and Islamic Peoples"]

[Text] Yesterday, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn issued a statement in reply to President Husni Mubarak's appeal to Baghdad to seek peace and pull its troops out of Kuwait in order to spare the Arab and Islamic nations from a horrifying catastrophe. The Iraqi statement disappointed the hopes of the Arab and Islamic peoples who expected the Iraqi president to go back on his position, which is a stumbling block in the face of all the ongoing efforts to contain the serious crisis resulting from Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. It was this invasion that led to an influx of international troops into the region, thus threatening to trigger off an explosion at any moment.

Instead of dissipating the fears of the Arab and Islamic peoples, who believe that the specter of a destructive war that will leave a scorched earth is looming in the region, the Iraqi president intensified these fears and ignored the main issue contained in President Mubarak's appeal, which stressed the need to listen to reason and to withdraw Iraqi troops from Kuwait, thus preserving the interests of the Arab homeland and protecting its peoples from destruction. The Iraqi president pushed this issue into endless labyrinths, leveling accusations here and there. The Iraqi president's reply was completely void of even a reference to the principles contained in President Mubarak's appeal for him to respond to the call of peace and to abide by the Arab and international consensus for withdrawal from Kuwait and reinstatement of its legitimate government.

What is truly painful is that the Iraqi president ignored the core of the problem and denied that his invasion and annexation of Kuwait were the main reason for the international troops in the region, thus placing the Arab region on the verge of a precipice. The Iraqi president's statement was full of rhetorical phrases void of any substance. He concentrated on several misleading slogans in a deliberate attempt to stir up the feelings of Arabs and Muslims, thinking that the Arab homeland would stand beside him as it did with Egypt when it came under the tripartite aggression [involving Britain, France, and Israel] in 1956. However, it would be a grave mistake for President Saddam to think this. At that time, it was Egypt that was the victim of an aggression by non-Arabs, while the situation in the Gulf now is that Iraq is the aggressor as well as the occupying party, and the victim of the aggression is a fraternal Arab party. What made it worse for the sincere and honest Arabs and Muslims was that the State of Kuwait, the subject of the aggression, stood morally and financially beside Iraq throughout its war with Iran, so much so that Kuwait itself became a target for some conspiracies against it

and its legitimate government. The explosions and sabotage operations in Kuwait attest to this.

What is truly strange is for the Iraqi president to talk about the slogan that Arab wealth is for the Arabs and forget that he occupied Kuwait to plunder its wealth, not to mention the shameful atrocities committed by the Iraqi president's troops against the Kuwaiti people. By launching this slogan, the Iraqi president seems not to have realized that the whole world knows he was the one who squandered hundreds of billions of dollars of Arab money in his war with Iran. What is even worse and more bitter is that it was the Iraqi president who in the end gave in to all of Iran's conditions, thus admitting that it was a mistake for him to have decided to go to war against Iran.

None of the clauses in the Iraqi president's statement broached the problem of his occupation of Kuwait and his detention of foreign nationals as hostages. He did not offer any proposals to avert the outbreak of fire in the region which, should it take place, will lead to a limitless catastrophe.

The Iraqi president's talk about social justice leads us to a question: Would spreading poverty among the Arab people and squandering their wealth and resources, should the volcano erupt in the Gulf and consume everything, be part of his idea of social justice? What is truly deplorable is for President Saddam to add a touch of Islam to his slogans, while Islam has nothing to do with all the insinuations of sedition that he wants to stir up among Muslims as mentioned in his statement. This is the question we would like to ask in this respect: Does Islam permit the pillaging of property and the violation of people's dignity as the Iraqi troops have done to the Kuwaitis? Does Islam allow the arbitrary leveling of accusations? Will not the Iraqi president's words about Arab oil wealth add to the regional countries' worries and confirm his hunger for this wealth? Does this not also prove that the occupation of Kuwait is not the end of the story in the mind of the Iraqi president?

The impending questions are: Can the Iraqi president stay on the road of starving and destroying the Arab homeland? Will he continue to turn his back to all appeals made for the sake of peace and avoidance of bloodshed? Does the Iraqi president believe Iraq can stand against the entire world? Can he convince others to join him on the road of evil and devastation? These are the questions in the critical moments our Arab nation is approaching. However, we say there is still a chance for the Iraqi president to save the people of Iraq and the Arab nation from destruction and to return to what is right, because following what is right is a virtue.

Developments Related to Evacuation of Citizens

Military Planes To Be Used

NC2208054990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2215 GMT 21 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 21 Aug (WAKH)—MENA has learned that six military aircraft have been assigned to transport Egyptian citizens from al-'Aqabah to Cairo daily as of Wednesday [22 August]. President Husni Mubarak, supreme commander of the armed forces, has issued these instructions in order to facilitate the return of the Egyptians from Kuwait and Iraq.

If necessary, the number of planes transporting Egyptians from al-'Aqabah will be increased.

To Return via Syria, Jordan

NC2408161990

[Editorial report] Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic at 1400 GMT on 24 August reports, "Following contacts between the Egyptian and Syrian Governments, it has been decided to transfer the Egyptians returning from Iraq and Kuwait via Syria. The necessary measures have been taken to implement this decision, according to which the Egyptian returnees will be transferred by sea via the Syrian ports.

"It should be recalled that President Husni Mubarak and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad spoke on the telephone last night."

At 1321 GMT on 24 August, Cairo MENA in Arabic reports in a Cairo-datelined item that "This morning 400 Egyptian citizens who had been working in Kuwait returned to Cairo via the Jordanian port of al-'Aqabah. Of these citizens, 200 were transported by two military planes and the rest by an Egyptair airliner."

Then at 1349 GMT on 24 August, Cairo MENA in Arabic in another Cairo-datelined item reports, "West Germany has decided to send a planeload of food aid to the Egyptians returning from Kuwait and Iraq who are now in the Jordanian city of al-'Aqabah pending their return to their country.

"In a statement today, the West German Embassy in Cairo said that the German authorities have also decided to send equipment, tents, and complete medical equipment to provide the necesary care for the returnees."

Saudis Offer Planes

NC2408212290 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] Engineer Sulayman Mutawalli, minister of transport, communications, and maritime transport; has stated that 10,272 Egyptians returning from Iraq and Kuwait, along with 188 cars, arrived today at Nuwaybi' port from the Jordanian port of al-'Aqabah. The minister said they were transferred by ferries in four trips.

In a related issue, 1,000 returnees arrived at Cairo airport today from Iraq and Kuwait through Jordan. They were flown in by six civilian and military aircraft. Three more planes are expected to arrive later today carrying 800 passengers.

It should be recalled that President Mubarak has ordered a civilian and military airlift to transfer the citizens returning from Iraq and Kuwait through Jordan.

Meanwhile, an Egyptian plane carrying food and medicine left Cairo this afternoon for al-'Aqabah to provide assistance for the Egyptians there.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has decided to assist in transferring the Egyptians returning from Kuwait and Iraq by offering a number of Tristar planes. As of noon today, these planes began to transfer the Egyptians from Jordanian airports in Amman and al-'Aqabah to Cairo.

Further on Returnees

NC2508152590 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] Engineer Sulayman Mutawalli, minister of transport, communications, and maritime transport; has stated that 11,300 Egyptian nationals arrived in Egyptian ports from the Jordanian port of al-'Aqabah today, following the operation of the new navigational line between al-'Aqabah and Sharm al-Shaykh for the first time. The minister said the new line will help reduce the time of the return trip by half, compared with the al-'Aqabah-Suez line. This will help speed up the transportation of returning nationals.

Eng. Mutawalli added that 4,543 Egyptian nationals have been transported by the Egyptian Air Force and Egypt Air planes, in addition to Saudi and EC planes.

In another development, the transport minister stated that the tents necessary to build camps at the borders have been transported. A number of doctors have arrived in the area with the necessary medical equipment and drugs to provide health service at the points where Egyptians are assembled along the borders.

Eng. Mutawalli said that 55 tourist buses will begin operation on Monday, 27 August, to help transport nationals from the border areas to al-'Aqabah port, in preparation for their trip to Nuwaybi' by ferryboats.

He said a ship will start regular trips on Thursday [23 August] to transport Egyptian nationals' cars from al-'Aqabah to Egyptian ports.

Saudi Airways To Run 30 Flights

NC2508175090 Cairo MENA in English 1709 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, August 25 (MENA)—The Saudi Airways has decided to operate 30 flights to carry Egyptians from Amman airport to Cairo airport.

An offical source at Saudi Airways said two working teams were formed to facilitate the return of the Egyptians coming from Iraq and Kuwait.

Meanwhile a Saudi "Jumbo" arrived at Cairo airport today from Amman with 417 Egyptians on board.

Military, Civil Planes Used

NC2608145690 Cairo MENA in English 1350 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, Aug 26—(MENA)—Some eight military and civil planes arrived here today carrying some 1,750 persons, coming from Kuwait and Iraq via Aqaba and Amman.

A Saudi plane and another Jordanian plane also arrived here with a number of Egyptians on board.

Meanwhile, a responsible source at Egypt Air said that the airbus which joined the company's fleet yesterday will contribute to ferrying Egyptians back home as of today.

Diplomats' Families Return

NC2608143790 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] The families of Egyptian diplomats in Kuwait returned to Cairo this afternoon. The 29 women and children include Mrs. Sa'id Rif'at, wife of Egypt's ambassador in Kuwait.

Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received the families at the airport and congratulated them on their safe return.

Yemeni Envoy on Canceled Flights

NC2608134390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1259 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 26 Aug (MENA)—Yemen's Ambassador in Cairo Muhammad Mahmud al-Bihi said that canceling additional Air Yemen flights between Cairo and Sanaa was for purely operational reasons. He explained that additional flights are being operated between Sanaa and Amman to transport thousands of Yemeni nationals escaping Kuwait and Iraq.

The Yemeni ambassador told MENA that additional Air Yemen flights were canceled, not only between Sanaa and Cairo, but also between Sanaa and a number of other capitals because of the emergency situation.

The ambassador pointed out that the additional flights were organized to transport Egyptian teachers assigned to Yemen. He said that the cancelation has nothing to do with the assignment of Egyptian teachers to Yemen.

Air Yemen Denies Cancellations

NC2608174890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1606 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 26 Aug (MENA)—Additional flights [between Cairo and Sanaa] are to resume as of tomorrow, 27 August, in order to allow Egyptian teachers to return to their jobs in the Republic of Yemen.

'Ali 'Abd-al-Jalil, Air Yemen district manager, has denied that additional flights designed to serve Egyptian teachers had been canceled to use the Yemeni planes to bring Yemeni nationals from Iraq and Kuwait. He said

certain flights, on 25 and 26 August only, were canceled to meet the needs of the tourist season in Yemen.

More Arrive 26 Aug

NC2608181890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1743 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] Suez, 26 Aug (MENA)—Three ferryboats carrying 2,014 Egyptian returnees from Iraq and Kuwait and 412 cars arrived in Bur Tawfiq port today.

The Saudi ferryboat Fahd arrived from Jeddah port carrying 388 passengers and 151 cars. The Egyptian ferryboat Salim Express arrived from Jeddah port carrying 326 passengers and 61 cars. The Egyptian ferryboat Sindibad arrived from Aqaba port carrying 1,300 passengers and 200 cars.

4,000 Flown From Jordan

NC2608203090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1929 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] Twenty planes landed at Cairo Airport today transporting 4,000 Egyptians returning from Iraq and Kuwait via Jordan.

The airport authorities provided every facility to the returnees, and public transport authority buses transported many of them to their homes in Cairo.

Press Views Possible Confrontation in Gulf

NC2408184190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0638 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Excerpts] Cairo, 24 Aug (MENA)—Today's Cairo papers continue to show interest in the situation in the Gulf and its various consequences.

AL-AHRAM, AL-AKHBAR, and AL-JUMHURIYAH point out that the world expects the first real confrontation in the Gulf crisis to take place between Iraq and the international forces in the region now that the period fixed by Iraq for closing the foreign embassies in Kuwait expires today. They also refer to the flow of foreign forces into the region. [passage omitted]

Under the title "The Question Is When, Not If," AL-AKHBAR says: Decisive military deterrence to save the world from the danger of the Iraqi regime has become an estabished fact, and the world public now asks when and how this deterrence will take place before the Baghdad butcher commits more stupidities and crimes.

The paper says that there are several factors which make military interference imperative in order to compel Iraq to withdraw its forces from Kuwait. Foremost of these factors, the paper adds, is preventing the return of the law of the jungle to the international arena and decisively foiling any attempt to seize the land of others by force.

AL-AKHBAR further says: Saddam Husayn's attempt to control the oil wells led to the sudden rise in the price of petroleum and of basic goods in all countries. Therefore, any leniency with him would mean disturbing the serene life of every person on the surface of the earth.

In conclusion, the paper says: In view of these and other factors, it is certain that the tension in this region and every other region in the world will not last long. [passage omitted]

In his weekly article "Calmly," AL-AHRAM Chief Editor Ibrahim Nafi' says: Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has turned the entire region into a jungle in which every weapon and type of gunpowder imaginable exists and from which the smell of abominable war rises.

In his article today, "A Dignified Withdrawal or a Boundless Catastrophe," Nafi' adds: The Iraqi earthquake has caused a big crack in the wall of Arab safety. Intellectuals and politicians are fearful that this crack will turn into a destructive volcano spewing its lava in all directions to do away with all the Arab national aspirations which took long years of Arab action to foster, and to topple the entire Arab system.

In conclusion, AL-AHRAM's chief editor says: A withdrawal today under circumstances of Arab dignity is better than defeat, shame, disgrace, and the spread of darkness and sadness in every Arab home tomorrow.

In his article entitled "Will Reason Prevail?" AL-AKHBAR Chief Editor Sa'id Sunbul says: Iraqi President Saddam Husayn forgot in moments all the years of the long and harsh war with Iran. He extended his hand to Iran's president, describing him as the dear brother, while he previously described its rulers as infidel devils. Will reason prevail, and will Saddam Husayn find the courage to withdraw from Kuwait the same way that he withdrew from Iran?

Sunbul adds: Saddam Husayn is primarily responsible for the foreign presence in the region and for the grave consequences of this presence. He is also responsible for the aggravation of the destructive danger which threatens an ugly war that knows no mercy and common sense.

The chief edtitor then says: Saddam Husayn is trying these days to play the same card that Iran previously played. That is, the card of the hostages, but the situation now is entirely different. U.S. President George Bush is not the same man as U.S. President Carter. If Carter gave in to embezzlement and bargaining, then Bush will most likely not give in to this embezzlement, not even if he must sacrifice some hostages.

PLO Radio Reports Paper Supports Iraq

NC2508083590 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 0430 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] The Cairo newspaper AL-AHALI has called on the Egyptian people to be alert to the campaigns of deception being launched by Egyptian official circles regarding the U.S. invasion of the Arab holy land. The

paper urged the Egyptian people to support Iraq and Palestine in their confrontation with the imperialist-Zionist forces in the region.

AL-AHALI wondered what had prompted official circles in Egypt to launch an unjust campaign against Iraq and Palestine, which are confronting the Arab nation's enemies. The paper said Egypt should support Arab unity and not the enemies of unity, Palestine, Iraq, and the intifadah.

Libya

Sudan's Al-Bashir Meets With Al-Qadhdhafi

LD2108154890 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1220 GMT 21 Aug 90

[Text] A meeting was held this afternoon between the brother leader of the revolution and General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council in fraternal Sudan.

The meeting was attended by Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir and Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi. It was also attended by brother Yusuf Sa'id, political adviser; Sadiq Bkhis, press adviser to Gen. 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir; Dr. Faruq al-Bashari, candidate secretary general for the integration [between Libya and Sudan], and brother 'Abbas al-Nur Ibrahim, ambassador of Sudan to the great Jamahiriyah.

Departs, Cables Appreciation

LD2108183190 Tripoli JANA in English 1803 GMT 21 Aug 90

[Text] Tripoli, Aug 21, JAMAHIRIYA News Agency—Lieutenant General Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council in Sudan, has sent a telegram to the leader of the revolution on leaving Great Jamahiriya. The telegram reads:-

Brotherly Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the great [words indistinct] revolution. [Words indistinct] concluding my visit to it, I am pleased to extend to yourself my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the hospitality and devotion accorded to us and take this opportunity to laud the relations of brotherhood and cooperation between our two sisterly countries, entreating Allah [words indistinct], most eminent, to help serve the Arab people and the unity of the Arab nation, apart from its solidarity and prosperity.

Please accept my most brotherly regards.

Al-Qadhdhafi Returns From Talks in Tunisia

LD2508144190 Tripoli JANA in English 0808 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] Tripoli, Hanibal [August] 25, JAMAHIRYAH NEWS AGENCY- - The leader of the revolution arrived last night in great Jamahiryah. The leader was welcomed on his arrival by Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud and Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir.

King Husayn Arrives for Start of Arab Tour

JN2608202690 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] Continuing his ceaseless efforts to defuse the Gulf crisis within an Arab context, His Majesty King Husayn arrived in Tripoli this evening on a visit to the Libyan Jamahiriyah. On hand to greet his majesty were Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and other senior Libyan officials, along with Arab and foreign ambassadors in Tripoli. Accompanying his majesty on the visit, which will also take him to other Arab states in connection with the Gulf crisis, are Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Royal Court Chief al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, and his majesty's political adviser 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah.

Further on Arrival, Visit

LD2608193690 Tripoli JANA in English 1829 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] Tripoli, Hanibal 26 [26 August] JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—King Husayn of Jordan arrived in Tripoli this evening on a visit to Great Jamahiriyah.

A big welcoming ceremony, headed by the leader of the revolution, was mounted for King Husayn. Taking part in the welcoming ceremony was Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud.

Also participating in the welcoming ceremony were the secretary and members of the Secretariat of the General People's Congress, the secretary and members of the General People's Committee, officers of the armed people, the heads and members of the diplomatic missions accredited to Great Jamahiriyah and the ambassador and staff of the Jordanian Embassy to Great Jamahiriyah.

King Husayn is accompanied in his visit by the Prime Minister and Defence Minister Mudar Badran, the head of the royal court Zayd Bin-Shakir and the political advisor 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah.

Meets With Al-Qadhdhafi

JN2608205790 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 2038 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Husayn and Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi held a round of talks this evening. Our political affairs reporter Salim 'Ali Dhiyab with the following report:

[Begin Dhiyab recording] Talks opened in Tripoli this evening between His Majesty King Husayn and his brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. They discussed latest Arab developments and the Gulf crisis. [passage omitted]

Immediately upon his arrival in Tripoli, His Majesty King Husayn called at Col. al-Qadhdhafi's home demolished by U.S. aircraft on 15 April 1986, in which the Libyan leader's daughter was killed. In a special register, the king wrote that a time must come when human beings treat each other on an equal footing and peace based on justice prevails. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Participants at Meeting

LD2608204590 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] A working session was held this evening between the brother leader of the revolution and King Husayn of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The session was attended by Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud; the brother secretary of the General People's Committee; the brother secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation; brother Mudar Badran, the Jordanian prime minister and minister of defense; brother Zayd Bin-Shakir, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; and brother 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah, King Husayn's political adviser.

Holds 2d Meeting, Departs

LD2708131790 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Excerpts] A meeting was held this morning between the brother leader of the revolution and King Husayn of Jordan. It was attended by brother Mudar Badran, prime minister and defense minister; brother Zayid Bin Shakir, head of the Royal Court; brother Adnan Abu 'Awdeh, political adviser to King Husayn; and the Jordanian ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah.

King Husayn of Jordan and the delegation accompanying him left Tripoli this afternoon after a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

A grand send-off ceremony was accorded to King Husayn at Tripoli International Airport where the brother leader of the revolution was at the forefront of those present. Also taking part in the send-off ceremony were Staff. Major Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud, the secretary and members of the secretariat of the General People's Congress, the secretary and members of the General People's Committee, the brother secretary of the people's committee of the municipality of Tripoli, and a number of officers of the armed people, as well as the Jordanian ambassador in the Great Jamahiriyah and his embassy staff. [passage omitted]

Before boarding the plane, King Husayn was given a warm fraternal embrace by the brother leader of the revolution, expressing inter-Arab solidarity and the inevitability of a common destiny.

Al-Qadhdhafi Sends Message to UN on Gulf Crisis

LD2508141590 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution sent a cable to the UN secretary general today. The text is as follows:

Your Excellency Javier de Cuellar, I would like to refer to my 15 August 1990 letter to you and thank the Security Council members for their response to our calls to reconsider the acts of aggression taking place in the Arab Gulf region, contained in our letter mentioned above, in which I drew attention to the fact that individual actions of the United States and its allies represent a violation of the UN Charter and a threat to world peace and security because they lack any international legitimacy.

I also thank the Council for the seriousness of the consultations and deliberations which ended with the session held on 25 August, which was held out of respect for the UN Charter and the preservation of peace which interests us all. There is no doubt that a serious attempt was made to respect legitimacy and place the measures within their legal framework under the Security Council's supervision. But I express my disappointment that Resolution 665 does not express the spirit of the charter; rather, it approved the fait accompli which was imposed by force, and there is in it a clear deception of international legitimacy, and this is the most dangerous element because it is a contrived resolution adopted under American pressure on the United Nations. Articles 41, 42, and 43 of the charter's seventh chapter are candid articles which define what the Security Council should do to define the states taking part in the forces, the type of forces, the nomination of their command, and their placement under the command and supervision of the Security Council. Therefore, I still confirm the need for a new draft resolution clarifying the present resolution, 665, to include the size of the required force, the states taking part in it, and the organization of its command. Without this measure, the forces present in the Gulf remain colonialist forces carrying out an aggressive act. Resolution 665 will mean nothing in this case, barring the imposition of a fait accompli.

Finally, I confirm that Libya is eager to respect and uphold the UN Charter and international legitimacy, and cannot accept any measures which contradict international legitimacy and the UN Charter.

No Statement on Al-Qadhdhafi-Habre Meeting

LD2708132390 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1243 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] Tripoli, 26 Aug (JANA)—The People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation of the great Jamahiriyah has denied today that an official statement was released regarding the meeting that took place between Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the great al-Fatih revolution, and Chadian President Hissein Habre.

An authoritative source at the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation told JANA that it had released no statement concerning this meeting.

Embassy Denies Involvement in DC-10 Bombing

LD2608101890 Paris International Service in French 0630 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] The Libyan Embassy in Paris denies the information in LE POINT [that Libyan diplomats planned the bombing of the UTA DC-10 last September]. It describes it as untrue and lacking any foundation. It affirms that Libya has always condemned terrorist actions aimed at innocent civilian lives.

Zaire's Mobutu Sends Message to Al-Qadhdhafi

LD2608132190 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution received today Kalimba Wa Katana Mushobekwa, Zairian state commissioner of foreign affairs, in his capacity as special envoy of Zairian President Sese Seko Mobutu. The Zairian president's special envoy conveyed during the meeting, which was attended by the brother secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation, to the brother leader of the revolution a verbal message from President Mobutu.

Morocco

Embassy Clarifies Saddam Remarks on Sahara

LD2508000990 Rabat MAP in English 1313 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] Rabat, Aug. 24 (MAP)—Iraqi President Saddam Husayn never made any link between the presence of Iraqi troops in Kuwait and the Moroccan Sahara issue, said an official source at the Iraqi Embassy here.

The press attache at the Iraqi Embassy in Rabat said the whole affair was only due to a comment by the Egyptian Radio on President Husayn's August 19 open letter to families of foreigners.

A clarification by the Iraqi Embassy, carried Friday by Moroccan newspaper AL ALAM of the Istiqlal Party (nationalist-opposition), stated the letter's fragment the Egyptian Radio commented was as follows: The Kuwait issue should be dealt with by Arabs as an Arab affair, the same as other similar affairs such as the Sahara issue in the western part of the Arab nation, between Morocco and the parties to the conflict, the same as the Syrian occupation of Lebanon and other similar issues.

The clarification also recalled the "Zionist and Western media campaign against Iraq and the Arab nation" even before the Gulf events broke out and expressed regret at the negative role the Egyptian press played far from the least objective requirements to the extent that its organs made attempts "inducing public opinion to think it is a case of war betwen Egypt and Iraq".

Saudi Foreign Minister Stresses Cairo Position

LD2608171690 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Excerpt] Regarding the Gulf crisis, Arab capitals are witnessing intensive contacts with a view to finding a resolution to this crisis. Within this framework, His Royal Highness Prince Saud al-Faysal, foreign minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, arrived today in Morocco. He is conveying a message to His Majesty King Hassan II, may God grant him victory, from his brother the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz.

Prince Saud al-Faysal made the following statement in Rabat-Sale airport:

[Begin Saud al-Faysal recording] I am conveying a message from the custodian of the two holy mosques to his brother His Majesty King Hassan II. It comes within the framework of consultations between the two leaderships about the tragedy witnessed by the Arab region following the Iraqi invasion of the State of Kuwait and the tragedies this invasion has led to, which is a shocking thing. The wisdom of His Majesty King Hassan and the qualities of leadership in our Arab and Islamic situation cause the custodian of the two holy mosques to have continuous contacts with his majesty, in order to ponder the issues between them and discuss them with their cooperation and the merging of sincere Arab and Islamic efforts, especially now that we are witnessing a firm international stance to face up to this unjust aggression.

As you know, Arab countries, including sisterly Morocco and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, expressed a clear stand during the recent summit meeting in Cairo—which consists of the withdrawal of Iraqi invader forces from sisterly Kuwait and the return of legitimacy in order to resolve this issue. Should this step be made, matters can be solved in amicable ways, in the traditional way in which matters used to be solved between Arab countries. My hope is that the discussions which I will have today with Dr. Filali and the honor of meeting with His Majesty King Hassan II will enable me to convey the opinion and ideas of his majesty about the situation during these hard times witnessed by the Arab nationl [end recording] [passage omitted]

Meets With King

LD2708072490 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II—may God grant him victory—received at the royal palace in Skhirat last night His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the Saudi foreign minister.

Further Reportage on Chadian-Libyan Summit

Acheikh Ibn Oumar Reports

LD2508112690 Paris International Service in French 1230 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] There has been some delay in the conclusion of the negotiations in Rabat between the Chadian and Libyan presidents. The final communique was due to be signed. On the line we have the Chadian foreign minister, Acheikh Ibn Oumar, who is in Rabat. And with [correspondent] Farida Moha, we will try to find out to what extent an agreement has been reached. Well, minister, what are the main points on which you have finally made progress?

[Ibn Oumar] First of all, the two heads of state have agreed to end their territorial dispute through peaceful means. Secondly, they have agreed to immediately submit their territorial dispute to the International Court of Justice in conformity with the Algiers framework agreement. But at the same time, they also state their readiness to pursue political negotiations. They have also agreed to cease all form of support, aid, or provision of facilities for any hostile action directed against either of them from any country.

[Moha] Well Acheikh Ibn Oumar, if we have well understood, the Algiers Agreement stipulated that, in case of failure, the two parties should take recourse in the verdict of the International Court of Justice. Should we think that the Rabat negotiations have failed?

[Ibn Oumar] No, what we have agreed is that, given that the Algiers Agreement has set a deadline for the resort to the court, we will, nevertheless, continue our efforts to find a political solution. If in the meantime a political solution is found, it is not absolutely out of the question that we will withdraw the case from the court [words indistinct]

[Moha] Have you agreed on the withdrawal of the Libyan troops from the Auzou Strip?

[Ibn Oumar] The issue of the withdrawal of the Libyan troops preceding the resort to the court has not been agreed upon. Our position is that a withdrawal should take place as part of the political solution stage. We have now gone into the legal stage. This issue has not been discussed because the Algiers framework agreement says that in the process of the resort to the International Court of Justice, as a simultaneous measure, a demilitarization of the zone should take place automatically and immediately and an African force of observers should be set up to supervise the withdrawal of troops.

[Moha] Well Acheikh Ibn Oumar, is the offer of the Moroccan monarch to guarantee the exchange of prisoners between the two countries still on?

[Ibn Oumar] Yes it has been accepted because, as you know, the Libyan prisoners in Chad are not the only aspect of the issue. There are Chadian prisoners and missing nationals in Libya. The two parties have committed themselves to put their trust in the King to carry out contacts in order to settle this issue. We trust him.

[Moha] How do we describe the Rabat negotiations? Are they a step forward?

[Ibn Oumar] As for the negotiations, they are a step forward but what (?upset us) is that at the last minute, when the communique was due to be read by all of us at the ministerial level, the text which was presented to us was completely changed as a consequence, we preferred to delay the official ceremony (?planned for the issuing of the communique). We will, perhaps, finally end up with something informal.

Progress Cited

LD2508205990 Rabat MAP in English 1247 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] Rabat, Aug 25 (MAP)—The Libyan-Chadian summit, held earlier this week in Morocco, "has permitted the removal of a great number of obstacles between the two countries", a senior official of the Moroccan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation told MAP on Friday [24 August].

He said the summit, held at the initiative of King Hasan II of Morocco, succeeded in creating "an atmosphere of mutual trust, thus opening new prospects for Chadian-Libyan coopertion".

Another result of the summit here was the decision made to hold, "the soonest possible", a meeting gathering the two countries' foreign ministers to implement the "important decisions" made during the Rabat summit.

In August 1989, Libya and Chad signed a "framework agreement" in Algiers wherein they pledged to try to find a solution to their border conflict within a year and to resort, in case they failed, to the Hague International Court of Justice.

Communique Issued

AB2608155690 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 25 Aug 90

["Text" of communique issued in Rabat on 24 August following the Chad-Libyan summit—read by annoucer]

[Text] Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great al-Fatah Revolution, and His Excellency El Hadj Hissein Habre, president of the Republic of Chad, met in the presence of His Majesty Hassan II, king of Morocco, on 22 and 23 August 1990 in Rabat to solve the problems in implementing the Algiers Accord signed by both parties on 31 August 1989 in Algiers.

The talks were held in a frank and brotherly atmosphere and in a spirit of good understanding and mutually beneficial cooperation. Considering the historical, religious, and (?civilian) ties binding their two countries and prompted by the desire to consolidate their economic,

social, and human complementarity, the two heads of state agreed to end their dispute for the well-being of their people and the entire region, in view of the leading role of Libya and Chad in strengthening Arab-African cooperation and solidarity.

The president of the Republic of Chad and the leader of the Great al-Fatah Revolution decided to refer their territorial dispute to the International Court of Justice immediately, in conformity with the Algiers Accord. They also reaffirmed their readiness to pursue political negotiations. The two sides made the immediate commitment to cease all forms of support, aid, or facilities for any hostile action directed against either of the two sides from any country.

The foreign ministers of the two countries will meet as soon as possible to draw up the modalities for implementing the decisions made by the heads of state.

Chad's President Habre Ends Visit, Departs

LD2408175690 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Excerpt] Chadian President Hissein Habre left Morocco at noon today after a visit to Morocco which was marked by his being received by His Majesty King Hassan II, may God grant him victory. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Minister Denies Providing Facilities to Iraq

AB2608203290 Khartoum SUNA in English 1723 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] Nairobi, 26 August (SUNA)—Foreign Minister Ali Ahmad Sahlul dismissed the allegations that Sudan has given facilities for Iraq in a form of military bases. The minister described the reports circulated by some Arab and Kenyan papers as baseless rumours fabricated by [words indistinct] circles. Sahlul, who is here for attending the ministerial meeting ot the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD), added that even if the Sudan provided the said facilities that will serve nothing.

The Abu Dhabi daily newspaper "AL-FAJR" reported last Saturday that Iraq sent surface-to-air missiles to be deployed at the Red Sea coast destined towards a Saudi side. Meanwhile the Kenyan "DAILY NATION" quoted yesterday reports by the Egyptian paper recently alleging that Sudan provided military facilities to Iraq Air Force in Wadi Sayyidna air base north of Khartoum.

Nationals Return From Kuwait via Jordan

Ship Carries 250

EA2508184890 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1425 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 25 August (SUNA)—The Sudanese ship Nyala will arrive on 26 August in Port Sudan from the Jordanian port of al-Aqaba carrying 250 Sudanese citizens returning from Kuwait, 200 cars, and personal luggage, according to Mr. 'Ali Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman, minister of transport, communications, and tourism. He added that this was a result of the Council of Ministers' decision last week to transport immediately from al-Aqaba the Sudanese who were returning from Kuwait. He also reiterated Sudan's firm stand of not permitting Sudanese ships to be searched. The Nyala left on 23 August for al-Aqabah without being intercepted or searched. [passage omitted]

184 Return on Plane

EA2608204690 Omdurman Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] Some 184 Sudanese nationals arrived at Khartoum Airport yesterday from the Jordanian town of al-Aqabah by a Sudan airplane. The new arrivals were the third batch of Sudanese nationals who arrived in Jordan from Kuwait. The first batch of 512 Sudanese arrived on Saturday [25 August] while 404 nationals arrived on Friday.

Al-Bashir, Libyan Official Depart for Jordan

EA2608123090 Khartoum SUNA in English 0925 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] Khartoum, 26th August (SUNA)—Chairman of the Revolution Command Council Lt-Gen 'Umar al-Bashir left here today for Jordan within the context of the Arab efforts for finding a solution to the Gulf crisis.

Gen al-Bashir will hold talks with King Husayn of Jordan and government officials on the means of solving the Gulf crisis.

Gen al-Bashir is accompanied by member of the Libyan revolution's historical leadership Major Mustafa al-Kharrubi, who arrived here yesterday.

Army Families Appeal to European Parliament

EA2108211290 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 21 Aug 90

[Text] The families of Army officers summarily killed by the National Islamic Front [NIF] junta on 23 April this year, allegedly for their part in a coup attempt, have sent a letter to the European Parliament, appealing to the European Parliament to condemn the continued bloodbath in the Sudan. Here is the full text of the letter.

We members [as heard] of the army officers unlawfully and brutally killed by the junta that came to power on 30 June 1989 address ourselves to you, the European Parliament and member states, as your delegation is visiting our country. We would like to express our gratitude to you for your firm stand to effect an economic boycott of the present dictatorship in our country, and in particular, your criticism of the ongoing violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the Sudan by the military junta.

The murders committed by the military command council of the ruling junta have to be condemned all over the world. The Sudanese people are witnesses to the savage and ruthless ways in which the junta killed the 28 army officers whose patriotic moves aimed at efforts to end the dictatorship of the single-minded junta. The military command council has been an obedient servant of the antidemocratic extremist NIF, a well-known pro-Iranian group.

Our patriotic officers were murdered without any decent trial, their rights ruthlessly crushed, their ranks and medals of bravery put away, then shot and buried hurriedly in the early hours of Tuesday, 23 April 1990, which coincides with the 28th day of Ramadan.

The junta certainly poses a great danger to our world, which strives for peace, democracy, and human rights. The brutal murders of the army officers have provided the whole world with concrete evidence of the savage nature and orientan of the military junta by the NIF, with antidemocratic ideology and the inhumane intentions and actions of such groups, to say nothing of the (?Iranian support).

The murder of the army officers resembles in fact the long- standing record of the junta in violating human rights. The military command council has persecuted thousands of political and religious leaders and trade unionists. Thousands are still in detention without charge. Dr. Ali Fadl was killed just before the murder of the officers.

We urge you, in the name of all the Sudanese people and in particular that of the widows and children of the murdered officers, to keep up your support for the struggling Sudanese people against this uncivilized junta since it usurped power on 30 June 1989. Please find herewith attached the photographs and biographies of the murdered army officers who died as martyrs for the cause of democracy and human rights in the Sudan. We would very much like to keep in close touch with you in our continued fight until democracy, equality, and social justice is restored in the Sudan.

Long live the noble memory of the April martyrs! Long live the principled stand and support of the European Parliament for the cause of democracy and human rights! Long live the struggle of the Sudanese people for peace and social justice!

Refugee Official Appeals to International Community

EA2508162090 Khartoum SUNA in English 0936 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] Khartoum, 25 August (SUNA)—Sudan has renewed an appeal for the international community to bear the burden of refugees in Sudan. Commissioner of Refugees 'Abd al-Rahman Sirr al-Khatim was quoted by the daily "AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH" Saturday [25 August] as appealing for the international community to send food supplies to refugees in Sudan. He referred to the lack of equilibrium between the rate of refugees' influx and the potentialities available.

The commissioner affirmed that the food situation in the eastern region was "unsatisfactory." He asserted that shortage in sorghum witnessed by these camps recently was on the way to be solved. On the other hand, the commissioner said the cabinet will soon approve 33 projects worth 163,500,000 dollars designed to help the refugee-plagued areas. The projects, related to the fields of health, education, drinking water, social development, and forestry will be distributed among the areas affected.

The commissioner put the number of refugees influxed into Sudan until early this month at around 1,050,000. "The flow of refugees is still continuing across the eastern border at a rate of 98 refugees per day," he said. He concluded that contacts were under way for the convening, in Khartoum, of a conference to discuss issues of refugees in Africa under the current regional and international conditions.

SPLA To Allow UN To Move Food on Nile

EA2508084090 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] The SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] has approved and given green light by this announcement for the UN Operation Lifeline Sudan to move relief food from Kosti [in White Nile] to Malakal [in Upper Nile] using escorted UN-flagged barges on the river Nile as from Saturday 25 August 1990, that is, tomorrow.

The SPLA also hereby this announcement approves and gives green light for the UN Operation Lifeline Sudan to move relief food from Babanusa [in southern Kurdufan] to Aweil [in Bahr al-Ghazal] using escorted UN flagged trains.

The same Operation Lifeline Sudan trains will drop off food along the railway line to the needy and displaced population in SPLA- administered areas. The zonal and local commanders and SRRA [SPLA Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Agency] in the area will cooperate accordingly.

The same UN Operation Lifeline Sudan barges will drop off relief food along the Nile to the needy and di inistered areas. The sector and local commanders and SRRA chapters in the area will cooperate accordingly.

In this connection, the official spokesman of the SPLA wishes to reiterate and assure the international community and the Sudanese people that the movement will allow and facilitate purely humanitarian relief assistance to where it is needed whether in government or SPLA-controlled areas. That was the important announcement.

UN Official Says Operation Lifeline To Resume

EA2508190290 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1415 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] Khartoum, 25 August (SUNA)—UN Assistant Secretary General Mr. Michael Priestly, who is in charge

of the Operation Lifeline program, has announced that the program will soon resume transporting food relief supplies to Malakal in the Upper Nile region by barges on the Nile and to Aweil in Bahr al-Ghazal by land. He said this today when he met Brigadier Pio Yukwan, Revolution Command Council member and general supervisor of the Southern Council. During the meeting there was a review of the national efforts to promote peace and the measures being taken to unite public opinion in the South in favor of stability and security.

Six 'Arrested Advocates' Released 20 Aug

EA2108190490 Khartoum SUNA in English 0920 GMT 21 Aug 90

[Text] Khartoum, 21 August (SUNA)—Six arrested advocates have been released yesterday, Chairman of the Bar Association Steering Committee Muhammad Ziyadah Hammur stated yesterday. The released detainees were Yahya Muhammad al-Husayn, Sayyid Isa, Abd al-Rahman al-Zayn, Sayyid Taha, Ali Adam, and Awad al-Jid Muhammad Ahmad. The steering committee last week met with the member of the RCC [Revolution Command Council], member of the security and operations committee, Brigadier Bakri Hasan Salih, who promised to release the arrested advocates, Hammur said.

Tunisia

Al-Qadhdhafi, Ben Ali Meet at Carthage Airport

LD2408231990 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution and the president of the fraternal Tunisian republic, Zine el Abidine Ben Ali, held a closed meeting this evening at the VIP lounge at Carthage International Airport in Tunis.

The brother leader of the revolution arrived at Tunis Carthage International Airport this evening and President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali headed those who welcomed him. A number of government members and senior state officials were also there to welcome him.

Bahrain

Ministry Says Embassy in Kuwait To Remain Open

NC2608113790 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1055 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] Manama, 26 Aug (WAKH)—A responsible source at the Bahraini Foreign Ministry has announced that Bahrain will maintain its embassy in Kuwait which will continue its normal operations. He added that Bahrain does not recognize any situation resulting from Iraq's occupation of Kuwait.

Following is the text of the responsible source's statement:

Proceeding from its commitment to international legitimacy and from its unchanging condemnation of armed invasion, rejecting the annexation of territory by force and the consequences of Iraq's occupation of Kuwait, and in support of Arab and international resolutions adopted in this regard, notably:

The Arab League Council resolution of 3 August 1990;

The (?Islamic) foreign ministers conference statement of 4 August 1990;

UN Security Council Resolutions 660, 661, and 662; and

The Arab emergency summit resolution of 10 August 1990;

And in order to emphasize Kuwait's independence and territorial integrity as a member of the Arab League, the United Nations, and the Gulf Cooperation Council, and its recognition of the legitimate Kuwaiti Government, the State of Bahrain announces that it is continuing its diplomatic relations with Kuwait and maintaining its embassy in Kuwait which will continue its normal operations. Bahrain also does not recognize any situation resulting from Iraq's occupation of Kuwait.

Kuwait

Premier Gives Al-Ta'if Press Conference

LD2408225190 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1949 GMT 24 Aug 90

[From the Kuwait State Television program; question and answer portion of news conference given by Kuwaiti Premier Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah in al-Ta'if on 23 August—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Reporter] Jeremy Bowen from the BBC: Can you tell us explicitly if you (?think that) it is impossible to avoid war, given that all sides seem to be saying that diplomatic solutions have been practically exhausted?

[Al-Sabah] This depends on what steps the Iraqi president will be taking regarding the implementation of the Security Council resolutions.

[Unidentified reporter] Your highness, the statement of the GCC ministers of defense said that the liberation of Kuwait will be within an international framework. Will this include a military option? And what is meant by international framework? Does it mean the United Nations or the multinational forces?

[Al-Sabah] Kuwait is a state which is a member of the United Nations. If it has been exposed to any danger or any aggression which threatens its security and its entity and its independence, it has the right to seek assistance from brothers and from friends to aid the liberation of its occupied territories.

[Reporter] Your highness, [name indistinct] NBC news. Tens of thousands of Kuwaitis have managed to cross the border, many of them are able-bodied or of fighting age. Is there a Kuwait liberation army in formation which will take a position alongside its Arab brothers, and will we be able as correspondents to see them?

[Al-Sabah] Without going into details about these military matters, which you understand of course, or about the deployment of the Kuwaiti forces or military forces present here, I can say: Yes, we will rebuild our Kuwaiti forces, retrain them, and we will rearm them so that they can play their role in the liberation of Kuwait.

[Reporter] Your Highness, Christian [name indistinct] CNN, Cable News Network. You said that you firmly believe that the Iraqi (?forces) were poised to invade yet another country—a neighboring country. Do you mean Saudi Arabia? How do you know and also can you give a little bit of information about the resistance that is going on in Kuwait? You were saying your people there are fighting. Can you tell us about this?

[Al-Sabah] Yes. I have said that the ruling regime in Iraq intends to committ aggression against the fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. First, the enormous size of the Iraqi forces, the nature of the arms, and in particular the long range missiles and the speed of the thrust of the Iraqi forces to the Kuwait-Saudi border are all clear indications that the ruling Iraqi regime intends to carry out aggression against Saudi territory. As to the question of domestic resistance, yes, domestic resistance began and will escalate during the coming days or weeks.

Resistance Attacks Iraqi Tanks, Troops

NC2508185990 Muscat Sultanate of Oman Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] According to reports from occupied Kuwait, the Kuwaiti resistance fighters are launching commando attacks against the Iraqi forces. The reports add that the resistance has launched suicidal operations with rigged cars against Iraqi targets in Kuwait and that Kuwaiti soldiers and volunteers have assembled on the Saudi border as a preliminary action to entering Kuwait to resist the Iraqi occupation.

People who have arrived from Kuwait report that five Iraqi tanks were destroyed and several Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded in several attacks with Molotov cocktails against the Iraqi forces.

Kuwaiti Troops, Volunteers Ready To Enter Kuwait

NC2608163190 Muscat Sultanate of Oman Television Network in English 1600 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] According to news sources from the Kuwaiti-Saudi border zone, a large number of Kuwaiti troops and volunteers have gathered to enter occupied Kuwait to resist Iraqi forces. A Kuwaiti resistance leader said that the Kuwaiti forces stationed in Saudi Arabia, as part of Arab and international forces, would be the first to enter Kuwait if military action began.

Reports from Kuwait said that the Kuwaiti resistance had launched several suicide attacks on observation posts, destroying five tanks and killing and wounding a number of Iraqi soldiers.

Kuwaiti resistance sources in the Kuwaiti-Saudi border zone said resistance men had helped several foreign nationals to escape over the Kuwaiti-Saudi border and the Iraqi-Jordanian border. The sources also said the Iraqi occupation forces had mined the approaches to Kuwait and reconnaissance units had taken note of Iraq's counter-resistance efforts.

An all-Arab multinational force deployed in Saudi Arabia after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait was carrying out surveillance operations near the Kuwaiti border today. The area is one of the harshest in Saudi Arabia and the Arab units cover a vast flat tracks of desert with widely dispersed bases. But many of the desert-hardened Saudi, Egyptian, and Moroccan soldiers sleep in the open to quicken their response in case of attack.

Citizens To Continue Harboring Foreigners

LD2708090790 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 0828 GMT 27 Aug 90

[By Chris Moncrieff, PRESS ASSOCIATION chief political correspondent]

[Text] Kuwaitis will ignore the threat of the death penalty and continue to harbour foreign nationals, including Britons, from the Iraqis, a member of the Kuwaiti royal family said today.

"We describe ourselves as a humanitarian race. It is one of the fundamental objectives of a humanitarian race to harbour people in danger," Mr. Muhammad Al-Sabah said on the BBC Radio 4 today programme. "I have no doubt that my compatriots will continue to help British and other European citizens for as long as it will take. I know for a fact that it is happening.

Ministers Council Meets; Ozal Message Received

LD2408193690 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1818 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] Doha, 24 Aug (SPA)—The Kuwait Council of Ministers met today, chaired by Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister. KUNA said that the council discussed conditions facing Kuwaiti citizens inside and outside Kuwait in the light of reports. The council decided to set up committees to follow up the matter and to report back to it in order that it could continue taking the appropriate resolutions.

His Highness the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah received a message from Turkish President Turgot Ozal containing affirmation of Turkey's firm attitude toward the Iraqi occupation, the withdrawal of Iraqi forces, and the legitimate Kuwaiti regime exercizing its constitutional rights. The message was delivered today by the Turkish minister of state for economic affairs, Gunes Taner, when he was received by Shaykh Jabir.

Cabinet Meets, Hears Security Reports

NC2508111290 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1050 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] Kuwait, 25 Aug (WAKH)—The Kuwaiti cabinet continued its meetings today under His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister.

Kuwait Radio said this afternoon that the cabinet was briefed by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, on his recent tour to some countries to convey messages from Kuwait Amir His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah to the leaders of those countries.

The radio added that the cabinet adopted a decision on facilitating the Egyptian brothers' departure for Egypt. It was also briefed on some security reports and adopted the necessary decisions on them.

Council of Ministers Continues Meetings

LD2508162990 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] Kuwait's Council of Ministers continues its meetings today under His Highness Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, the heir apparent and prime minister. Kuwait Radio said that the council got acquainted with a report by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, on his tour of some states to deliver messages from His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, the Amir of Kuwait, to the leaders and presidents of those states.

The council adopted a resolution on helping the Egyptian brothers to leave for Egypt. The council got acquainted with some special security reports and adopted the necessary measures regarding them.

Negotiations Begun To Unfreeze Kuwait Assets

NC2508065390 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0535 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] Kuwait, 24 Aug (WAKH)—The Kuwaiti Investments Office [KIO] in London has started negotiations with the Bank of England to repeal the decision to freeze Kuwaiti assets. Kuwait Radio tonight cited informed sources as saying that the governor of the Bank of England has announced his readiness to allow the legitimate Kuwaiti government to use the KIO assets in London.

The radio cited an international economic expert as saying that there is no longer any justification for freezing Kuwaiti assets to protect them, in light of the presence of the internationally recognized legitimate government which is managing Kuwait's affairs from abroad and whose ambassadors are present in all countries. Consequently, it can protect its assets and funds. Kuwaiti Ambassador in Cairo 'Abd-al-Razzak al-Kandari has told AL-AHRAM that the Kuwaiti Government will soon begin contacts with various countries to unfreeze Kuwaiti assets.

Oman

Foreign Ministry To Keep Embassy in Kuwait Open

NC2508143290 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] The Sultanate of Oman has announced that its embassy in Kuwait will remain open. A Foreign Ministry statement said that the sultanate, while supporting the Arab and international resolutions concerning the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, will keep its embassy in the State of Kuwait open and will not recognize any situation resulting from the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. Here is the text of the statement issued by the Omani Foreign Ministry:

The Sultanate of Oman, while reiterating its unshifting support for the Arab and international resolutions issued in connection with the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait—namely, the Arab League's council resolution dated 3 August 1990, the Islamic Conference Organization statement dated 4 August 1990, UN Security Council Resolutions Nos. 660, 661, and 668, as well as the emergency Arab summit resolution dated 10 August 1990—stresses that it will keep its embassy in the State of Kuwait open and will not recognize any situation resulting from the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Qatar

State To Continue To Recognize Kuwait Government

NC2608111090 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1025 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] Doha, 26 Aug (WAKH)—The State of Qatar has declared that its diplomatic relations with the State of Kuwait remain unchanged and that it continues to recognize the State of Kuwait and its legitimate government.

In a statement carried by the QATARI NEWS AGENCY, a responsible source in the Foreign Ministry said that the State of Qatar considers Iraq's decision to annex Kuwait null and void and that it is committed to all Arab and international resolutions on the Iraqi invasion of the State of Kuwait and rejects all measures resulting from this invasion.

Saudi Arabia

Egyptian 'Chemical Warfare Experts' Arrive 21 Aug

JN2408181290 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 22 Aug 90 p 1

[Text] Sources at the Egyptian Ministry of Defense and War Production have confirmed that a group of Egyptian chemical warfare experts arrived in Saudi Arabia yesterday within the framework of Arab cooperation and as part of the Egyptian forces scheduled for dispatch to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

AL-BAYAN has learned that the mission of these chemical experts will be restricted to averting the consequences of a chemical attack against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Arab forces there. A military source also told the AL-BAYAN correspondent in Cairo that the Egyptian forces had been provided with masks to protect them from gases and other chemical weapons.

Saudi Youth Join Military Service in 'Waves'

LD2608151690 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1430 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] In response to the call made by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz, the supreme commander of the armed forces, waves of Saudi youth have hastened to join military service in various military sectors. Recruitment centers of the National Guard in Riyadh, Jeddah, and Damman, have been receiving since yesterday, Saturday 24 August, a huge number of Saudi youth willing to join the ranks of the National Guard to serve religion, the king, the homeland, and to defend its security and stability.

A number of Saudi youth, willing to join the military service, have shown happiness and pride at joining the military service, asserting the nobelness of defending the Kingdom and protecting it from the schemes of aggressors and the rancor of the greedy.

Saudis Express 'Displeasure' on Saddam Statements

JN2608180690 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1712 GMT 26 Aug 90

['Abdallah al-Shihri dispatch from Jeddah]

[Excerpt] Against the background of Iraq's adamant refusal to accommodate Arab and international calls for

peace, the Saudi Government is keeping up its diplomatic offensive to defuse the Gulf crisis. In this context, Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal left Jeddah today for Morocco and France for talks with their top officials on latest regional developments. In the meantime, Jordan's King Husayn is expected by some sources to arrive in Jeddah within 48 hours.

Meanwhile, a number of Saudi figures have voiced displeasure at Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's statements at a news conference during Austrian President Kurt Waldheim's visit to Iraq. They emphasized that the deployment of a multi-national military force to deter any regional or continental force ushers in a new era of stable world security—a step, they argue, that will undoubtedly avert any adventure. President Saddam Husayn's statement that multi-national forces have occupied Mecca and al-Madinah has been greeted with blanket ridicule here, given that these forces are 1,300-1,500 KMs away from the two cities—a fact not unknown by Saddam Husayn and all his commanders, as a high ranking Saudi official put it. The official stressed that the Kingdom will not permit any non-Muslims to go into the Mecca or al-Madinah mosques in keeping with the teachings of Islam. These Saudi figures see in Saddam Husayn's statements confirmation and conclusive evidence of his underestimation of the intellect of his people, the Arab nation, and the international community, thus reinforcing the belief that he is politically floundering and experiencing a psychological crisis, as they put it. [passage omitted]

'Massive' Anti-U.S. Protests Noted; 11 Killed

JN2408115090 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] Eleven Saudi citizens were martyred in clashes between demonstrators and charlatan Fahd regime's security forces to protest against the presence of U.S. and Western forces in Najd and Hijaz. [Saudi Arabia] Diplomatic sources said massive demonstrations against the U.S.-Western presence in the Arab lands were staged in the streets of Dhahran on 20 August. It is worth recalling that, according to diplomatic sources at the United Nations, similar demonstrations were staged in Riyadh the day before yesterday.

Israeli Aircraft, Tanks Said in Saudi Arabia

JN2508114190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1040 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] Riyadh, 25 Aug (INA)—Forty Israeli aircraft recently landed at Saudi Arabia's King Khalid Air Base after having their Israeli signs camouflaged, diplomatic sources said. The sources added that a U.S. aircraft coming from the Zionist entity and another Israli aircraft transporting camouflaged Merkava Israeli tanks landed at the air base.

It is to be noted that Zionist soldiers and a number of rabbis are currently present together with the U.S. forces in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] within the existing cooperation and coordination among the United States, the Zionist entity, and the traitor to the two holy mosques against Iraq and the Arab nation.

United Arab Emirates

Mission in Kuwait To Continue Functioning

NC2608191590 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1840 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Excerpt] Abh Dhabi, 26 Aug (WAKH)—The United Arab Emirates [UAE] has stressed that its mission in the state of Kuwait will continue to discharge its duty without any changes and that the diplomatic relations between the UAE and Kuwaiti Governments continue on both the bilateral and international levels.

A Foreign Ministry source said that the UAE considers the fraternal state of Kuwait as maintaining its international status and that it is represented by its legitimate government under the leadership of His Highness Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the amir of the state of Kuwait.

The source stressed that any contradictory measure by the Iraqi authorities occupying the state of Kuwait will be considered null and void. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Ministry Confirms Expulsion of British Consul

AB2508212890 Paris AFP in English 1841 GMT 25 aug 90

[Text] Sanaa, Aug 25 (AFP)—Yemen confirmed Saturday that it had decided to expel the British consul-general in the Yemeni port of Aden, Doug Gordon, because of "activities incompatible with his diplomatic status." An official here said the Yemeni Foreign Ministry "had asked the British diplomat to leave the country following activities incompatible with his mission," but gave no details.

(In London, the Foreign Office said Yemen was expelling Mr. Gordon who was charged by Yemeni authorities with spying. He was told that he had 48 hours to leave the country.

(A Foreign Office spokesman said the Yemeni authorities had not spelled out specifically why Mr. Gordon was being expelled but confirmed that he had been "observing" tanker movements in the Aden port.

(One unconfirmed report in London said Mr. Gordon had been caught taking photographs of the oil refinery at Aden and of military installations.

(Foreign Office Minister William Waldegrave had summoned the Yemeni ambassador to London, Ahmad Abd Raghl, to the Office.)

Source Denies Iraqi Forces Present in Country

EA2508210090 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] A responsible source has condemned, in a statement to the Yemeni news agency SABA, the fabricated reports of some Western news media intended to spread poison to escalate the acute tension in the region, this through the publication and broadcasting of rumors and false allegations. This has been a longstanding custom of the colonialist media against the Arab nation—through the distortion of positions.

Among these fabricated reports is a broadcast by London radio—that there is an air bridge between our country and fraternal Iraq for the transportation of food; that there are Iraqi Forces in our country; and other fabrications. The source said that these reports were not true. He stressed that these allegations were aimed at obstructing the efforts of our country and its intensive contacts to solve the crisis in the region peacefully and within the Arab family, and away from the foreign interference which strives to invent pretexts for its continued presence to harm Arab national security.

Border Closure, Iraqi Bases, Planes Denied

JN2608205290 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani has denied reports on the closure of border between our country and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He stressed that the borders are wide open and no tension or concentrations exist on either side of the border.

In a statement to the weekly Palestinian newspaper AL-NADWAH published in its issue in occupied Jerusalem, Dr. al-Iryani said that our country's position on the situation in the Arab Gulf region does not differ in principle from the positions of the Arab states that have not approved the arrival of foreign forces. He pointed out that the basic issue cannot be resolved by resorting to a foreign solution. He stressed that Yemen's stand is based on the non-use of force to settle conflicts. He said that if the international community plans to resolve major crises, then it should resolve the crisis of Israel's occupation of southern Lebanon, the Golan Heights, and the Palestinian territories.

The brother foreign minister described reports about the presence of Iraqi missile bases or planes on the territories of the Republic of Yemen as baseless.

Official on Visits to Iraq, Meeting With Saddam

EA2408103790 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Brother Salim Salih Muhammad, member of the Presidential Council, has said that President Saddam Husayn told him during his visit to Baghdad that Iraq was prepared to receive any Arab, American, European or UN delegation and that he was prepared to open all doors, except one—and that was the bowing down of Iraq to foreigners' treachery. President Saddam Husayn also stressed to him that Iraq had no any aggressive designs against Saudi Arabia or any historical demands on its territories.

In a press statement published by the AL-WAHDAH [UNITED] newspaper in today's issue, Brother Salim Salih Muhammad said that his meeting with President Saddam Husayn had enhanced our country's confidence in the possibility of reaching an honorable Arab solution to the crisis. He noted that there was a serious Arab initiative presented by iraq President Saddam Husayn and that the door was still open for improving these initiatives with a view to saving the region from a dangerous and destructive catastrophe whose results would not be confined to the Arab homeland but would encompass the entire world.

Brother Salim Salih Muhammad stated that during his visit to Baghdad, during which he relayed a message from Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdullah Salih to his Brother Saddam Husayn, he made an unrestricted tour of Baghdad upon his arrival in the evening and found the city full of activities, bright lights, residents engaged in their normal daily activities, shops open, and all the appearances of normal life as in any other modern city. He said his attention was drawn by the sign of joyous families and children playing and enjoying themselves at the Qaws al-Nasr [Victory Arch] public garden in Baghdad. He did not observe any military activity to indicate that the country was living through an abnormal situation.

Foreign Minister Reacts to 25 Aug UN Resolution

JN2508132290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1250 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Aug (INA)—In reply to a question from INA on Iraq's position on the resolution the UN Security Council passed today, the foreign minister said:

This resolution, just like the other recent Security Council resolutions, is purely a U.S. resolution. It did not come as a surprise to us, considering the frenzied efforts the U.S. Administration is making to turn the Security Council into an instrument of its aggressive and unjust foreign policy.

The foreign minister declared that the content of this resolution is no different from the measures that the United States has been recently applying. Hence, its impact will be no different from that of other recent hostile, unilateral U.S. actions.

The foreign minister added that Iraq rejects this unjust resolution and that the Arab masses and nationalist Arab regimes also reject this resolution. He went on to say that Islamic peoples and all well-meaning parties throughout the world who reject U.S. hegemony sympathize with this position of ours. He said that it is being made clearer day after day that the battle we are waging against U.S. and American arrogance is the battle of right against falsehood, the battle of freedom against enslavement, and the battle of justice against injustice. Besides, resistance to these unjust U.S. and Western positions and policies will gain further ground and expand not only in the Arab world, but also in the Islamic world and the entire world, as truth is being seen in clearer terms day after day, the minister said. These U.S. and Western policies and positons will certainly be defeated, the foreign minister concluded.

Saddam Welcomes 'Esteemed Guest' Waldheim

JN2508124290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1205 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Aug (INA)—Austrian President Kurt Waldheim arrived in Baghdad at noon today. His Excellency President Saddam Husayn led those on hand to welcome him. At the ramp, His Excellency President Saddam Husayn shook hands with the guest, President Kurt Waldheim, and the delegation accompanying him, congratulating them on arriving safely.

Then, the guest president shook hands with 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC]; Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Taha Muhyi al-Din Ma'ruf, RCC member and vice president; Tariq 'Aziz, RCC member, deputy prime minister, and foreign minister; Sa'dun Hammadi, RCC member and deputy prime minister; and Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information.

After a brief rest at the VIP lounge during which His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and his guest Austrian President Kurt Waldheim exchanged a cordial convesation, His Excellency President Saddam Husayn escorted his guest in an official motorcade around Baghdad that took them to various areas in the city, the city of victory and peace. During this drive, the guest president acquainted himself with the cultural and archeological features of the city which is living the joys of unity that brought together the one Iraqi family, so that Iraqis can live in security and peace under the umbrella of great Iraq and its victorious leader His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, while at the same time showing readiness under his historic leadership to defend the sacred national soil extending from the north to the sea, along with all honorable and well-intentioned people in the Arab world in particular and throughout the world in general.

Afterward, the motorcade arrived at the palace, where the guest president will stay as an esteemed guest of the Iraqi Government and people.

Gives News Conference

JN2508173890 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1605 GMT 25 Aug 90

["Full recording" of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's news conference for unidentified Austrian journalists on receiving Austrian President Kurt Waldheim in Baghdad on 25 August; Saddam Husayn's answers in Arabic, journalists' questions in English or German with superimposed Arabic translation]

[Text] [Interpreter, in English] If you have any questions that are not related to the talks we are going to hold, then of course we can accept them now. But for those questions that have to do with the talks, we would have to beg of you to delay them until we've had the talks and perhaps we can answer them later.

[Reporter] Iraq is more or less in direct confrontation with the United States, but the United States has rejected all kinds of initiatives and negotiations, and the middle-of-the road solution that you presented. Mr. President, do you see a possibility for a political solution of the Gulf crisis at this time?

[Husayn] When we look at issues from a humanitarian perspective, we must at all times and under any circumstances, accept the possibility of a political solution in any issue as open, because it is characteristic of this age.

[Reporter, in English] You know that the Americans are saying that they want your forces to leave Kuwait. How do you see a possibility now at this time, with you on the one side and the Americans on the opposite side to find a concrete, peaceful, diplomatic, and political solution.

[Husayn] The Americans say this is so, but not everything they say is right and they cannot get everything they ask for. The grave mistake some are committing now is that they seem to think that everything America wants must happen

or has to happen the way it wants. Whereas, at the same time, we say that no one can demand anything apart from when they feel they are in the right. We now feel that we are defending every state which under its own special circumstances is forced to respond to the United States' wishes, irrespective of whether this request is right or wrong for the people. When the United States invaded Grenada and Panama, was it right in doing so? Was Panama at any time a part of the United States? Was Grenada a part of the United States?

[Reporter] But Mr. President, the United States withdrew from Panama and Grenada. Do you see any possibility the Arabs can solve this problem by replacing the Iraqi Forces in Kuwait with forces from various Arab states?

[Husayn] Without going into deep detail, prior to the deployment of the U.S. forces, we had agreed that we should have a summit meeting including five Arab leaders. These states were Iraq, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, and Egypt. While we were preparing for the summit, the Saudis surprised us by asking the Americans to come into Saudi Arabia. The Americans and the Saudis closed the door to an Arab solution, despite the fact that the Arabs have always been and are capable of settling their problems among themselves.

[Reporter, in English] Mr. President, will Kuwait become an independent state again?

[Husayn] I ask you, when did Kuwait become a state?

[Reporter, in English] Fourteen years ago?

[Husayn] When did it become a state in the history of states?

[Reporter, in English] After the British withdrawal?

[Husayn] Before that, it was part of which state?

[Reporter, in English] Great Britain?

[Husayn] Does the British island extend to the Arab homeland?

[Reporter, in English] No.

[Husayn] If you read history, you will find that Iraq extends from Zakho to the sea, and that there was no such state called Kuwait. Kuwait was devised by British intelligence. The objective was to deprive Iraq of an outlet to the sea.

[Reporter, in English] Mr. President, do you have a message for the Americans?

[Husayn] I have sent a letter to Bush and a letter to the Americans, and I always have messages for the Americans. We have not taken away any part of the United States. We have not attacked the United States. We do not want to deprive the U.S. citizen of anything in life. However, we are defending ourselves. He who wants to live and not die should seek peace. What I want to say, and this is not a threat, but this is a fact—whoever attacks Iraq will find in front of him columns of dead bodies which may have a beginning but may not have an end. We want the Americans to live and we do not want them to die. In the same way, we want the Iraqis to live and not die. So, U.S. officials should seek a political solution to world problems and should forget that they can get anything they want. This is the message.

[Reporter, in English] Mr. President, a majority of the countries in the United Nations Security Council, a large majority, and also a majority of Arab governments, have condemned your annexation of Kuwait and asked your forces to withdraw. Can this be, in your opinion, considered a demand of the United States, or is this not a demand of the majority of the world community, and even the majority of the Arab community?

[Husayn] The UN Security Council, with its big majority, has in the past decided that Israel should withdraw from the occupied Arab territories, but Israel has not withdrawn. The UN Security Council has not adopted resolutions to impose an embargo or a blockade against Israel. Why? Because the United States does not want to impose a blockade on Israel. So, regardless of its form, the resolution is a U.S. resolution.

[Reporter, in English] Mr. President, are there any more Arab countries you consider by history part of Iraq?

[Husayn] Part of Iraq, no. There are no other countries that are part of Iraq. We respect the sovereignty of Arabs, we respect their independent decisionmaking. Even Kuwait, we used to respect it. But when it conspired against its mother and when it came to cut off the breast of its mother, there was no room left to allow this ungrateful daughter to tamper with Iraq, which is its original mother. Our decision was a defensive one. We have explained this decision to the world.

[Reporter] As a matter of fact, you are not permitting Western and U.S. nationals to leave. Do you intend to make a gesture today or perhaps in the next few days?

[Husayn] Before this, you have to understand why we made this decision. The United States, or let us say the U.S. President, decided to deploy an army in the Gulf. The U.S. troops came to occupy the Kaba and the tomb of the prophet. If some Muslims were to occupy the Vatican right now, would not this be viewed as a provocation to the Western world? I would regard it a crime for anyone to go and occupy the Vatican. So, what the U.S. President has done is a crime, because he came on a false pretext, saying that he was coming to defend the Saudi regime despite the fact that no one was threatening Saudi Arabia. When his troops came to Saudi Arabia and when it became clear that there was no Iraqi threat to Saudi Arabia, he changed his slogan and now says that Iraq must withdraw from Kuwait unconditionally, and that the corrupt ruling dynasty must be restored to Kuwait. Have you not assailed the Arabs because of the behavior of these corrupt dynasties which behaved in a manner damaging to the image of the Arab? Have you not cracked jokes about them in Austria, France, England, and the United States? You spoke of

the bad example they gave to Arabs. They sat at gambling tables and spent millions of dollars. This is the type of people Bush wants to bring back to power in Kuwait.

[Reporter, in English] Are you happy that our president, Kurt Waldheim, is now in Baghdad?

[Husayn] I am happy about anyone who comes to Baghdad. I am happy to receive Mr. Waldheim.

[Reporter] Have you actually moved the foreigners whom you describe as guests to places that you describe as strategic locations?

[Husayn] This measure is not meant to use them as a shield to ward off blows. This measure is meant to prevent the blows. This way we will be able to save the lives of the Americans, the Iraqis, the British, the French, and the Austrians.

[Interpreter, in English] Can I have questions from someone else? [Reporter] I have a question for Kurt Waldheim. How does Austria view the massive U.S. military presence in the region and the dangers that this poses, particularly considering that this is taking place in a region that has huge oil reserves?

[Waldheim] We have not held our talks so far. Hence, out of courtesy, I would not give myself the right to talk about this before I hold my talks with his excellency the president. So, the chance for talking right now is to be left to his excellency the president. However, I appreciate and value the generous invitation his excellency the president extended to me to come here, visit the country, and discuss topics related to humanitarian issues with his excellency the president.

[Reporter] Do you believe that President Kurt Waldheim can play a mediating role in this regard in view of his experience, mainly as a former UN secretary general? And, do you believe that the United Nations can play a more active role, either by bringing peace-keeping troops to the region or through other peace initiatives?

[Husayn] If it has the same experience as Mr. Waldheim, the United Nations can undertake peace efforts, especially if it is unbiased. Dr. Waldheim is a wise man and has broad experience. He is unbiased. Therefore, he is in a position to work for peace and prevent war.

[Reporter] Mr. President, you said a few minutes ago that what President Bush has done is a crime. Then why is the whole world against Iraq now?

[Husayn] The world has two kinds: One is with Iraq. We do not see the world as only limited to Europe and the United States. But we see the world as everywhere on planet Earth. Just as you see the world beginning with Austria in the first place when the matter concerns a national Austrian issue, we, equally, when the matter concerns Iraq, see the world beginning with Iraq and the Arabs. When the matter concerns the Muslims' sacred places, as was the case with the occupation of the Arab and Muslim sacred places by aggressive armies, then the next immediate environment after the Arabs is the Muslims. Let us ask the Iraqis now, let us come ask the Iraqis. When you ask them, you will find them united against the U.S. scheme. When we come to the Arabs, we will find a large number of Arab states are on our side, and we are on their side because the issue is one. If you ask Arab citizens, you will find that the majority of them support this position. But, if you consider the corrupt ones, who are discarded by their people—anyone who takes these people as the criteria will be making a mistake.

[Reporter, in English] Does this mean the Arab League is corrupt, Mr. President, because the Arab League....

[Husayn, interrupting] I have not said this because the Arab League has not decided anything against us....

[Reporter, in English, interrupting] The Arab League condemned the invasion of Kuwait?

[Husayn] No. Please. Please. The Arabs have met. Nine of them have decided, including the Gulf states and the regime deposed by its own people. The other nine have made another decision. So there is no denunciation decision by the Arab League. If you mean the summit that was held in Cairo.

[Reporter, in English] Right.

[Husayn] In Cairo the vote was nine to nine. You know the situation of Lebanon.

[Reporter, in English] Mr. President, has an Arab solution [words indistinct] any ideas for an Arabic solution of the problem. Do you see [words indistinct]?

[Husayn] Maybe we have gone too far and have not taken very good care of our guest president. We shall finish with this, and we will resume this meeting after we have our talks.

Begins Talks With Waldheim

JN2508131390 Baghdad INA in English 1230 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Excerpt] Baghdad, Aug. 25, INA—President Saddam Husayn and Mr Kurt Waldheim, president of the Federal Republic of Austria held a round of formal talks that dealt with the relations between the two friendly countries, issues of common interest in addition to the current developments in the region.

The talks were attended on the Iraqi side by Mr. 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council and members of the Revolution Command Council Taha Yasin Ramadan the first deputy premier, Taha Muhyi-al-Din Ma'ruf vice president of the republic and Tariq 'Aziz the deputy premier and foreign minister in addition to Mr. Sa'dun Hammadi, deputy premier and the Minister of Culture and Information Latif Nusayyif Jasim.

While on the Austrian side the talks were attended by the delegation accompanying the Austrian president, Mr. Alois

Mock, foreign minister and Dr. George Henning, private advisor of Mr. Kurt Waldeim and a number of advisors.

President Husayn has also given a luncheon party in honour of Mr. Kurt Waldeim president of the Federal Republic of Austria, attended by members of the two sides to the talks. [passage omitted]

Saddam, Waldheim News Conference

JN2508203590 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 25 Aug 90

["Full text" of a joint news conference by President Saddam Husayn and Austrian President Kurt Waldheim with unidentified Austrian journalists following Husayn-Waldheim talks in Baghdad on 25 August; Saddam Husayn's answers in Arabic, journalists' questions in English or German with superimposed Arabic translation, Waldheim's answers in English with consecutive Arabic translation]

[Text] [Reporter] Thank you very much for allowing reporters to accompany His Excellency President Waldheim on his visit. But, I would also like to speak on behalf of the Austrian media team and say that the Austrian people right now are very much concerned and that they want to see two or three Austrian reporters stay for two or three days in Baghdad, if you allow us to stay.

[Saddam] If you seek to interview me, I may not be able to meet this demand of yours. But if you seek to remain in Baghdad, to tour around, and meet colleagues, you are most welcome.

[Reporter] We will be happy to stay for two more days to prepare a program or to hold interviews. Please, forgive me if I talk to you in direct terms.

[Saddam] I am very much satisfied with direct, straight talk. I do not like to beat around the bush. So, you are welcome. Anyone who wants to stay longer, he is our guest. The minister of information will facilitate everything for you so that you can talk about facts as they are.

[Reporter] Thank you, Mr. President.

[Saddam] I am ready now to receive questions, if you have any further questions.

[Reporter] Will foreigners be allowed to leave the country? If this is possible, which are the countries whose nationals will be allowed to leave?

[Saddam] Those who will leave right now are the Austrians. But, we hope that our hosting of the rest of foreigners here will not last long.

[Reporter] On what does it depend? What can the heads of state of their countries do in this regard?

[Saddam] This depends on the removal of the specter of war which the United States seeks to ignite in the region. Hence, foreigners in Iraq will be champions of peace if they remain one of the factors that would avert war. I think that every reasonable man would like to become a champion of peace.

[Reporter] Why then did you permit the Austrians to leave? What is the idea behind allowing them to leave?

[Saddam] Allowing the Austrians to leave is in appreciation of the visit made to us by His Excellency President Waldheim. The Arabs have traditions that require that, once they enter an Arab's house, guests become masters in more ways than one. Therefore, when Mr. Waldheim comes to Iraq, he becomes a guest of the Iraqi people and of all of us. So, when he leaves Iraq, he must be comfortable. The other factor that was a result of this measure is that we want to convey to the world at large the idea that not allowing foreigners to travel is not an end in itself but a means to achieve peace. On this basis, the departure of Austrians from Iraq is also a message of peace.

[Reporter] Does this mean that Americans will not be allowed to leave as long as U.S. troops remain in Saudi Arabia?

[Saddam] We are talking about the specter of war. We believe that the entry of U.S. troops into the lands of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia], in addition to the humiliation caused by this to Arab and Islamic sanctities there, brings a danger of war. It is only natural to say that threatening Iraq and imposing a blockade on it are acts of aggression. All that has been happening can at any moment produce a spark that might result in a huge conflagration. Hence, the presence of foreigners in Iraq might help send messages of peace to Western public opinion. This is what we want. We want peace. We do not want war.

[Reporter] Let us go back to the visit of His Excellency President Waldheim. If presidents and government officials of other Western countries visit, will such a thing help their nationals? Will these guests be accorded the same hospitality as regards the fate of their nationals in Iraq?

[Saddam] It is certain in general that we will perform the duties of hospitality toward anyone we accept as a guest. As for Mr. Waldheim, we do not view him only as a guest. He is also a friend. By this, I mean that he is a friend and our views can converge with his in the performance of humanitarian work to serve the cause of peace. We both want peace. It is only natural that we become friends to serve humanity.

[Reporter] Will you be happy to receive as a guest in your country the UN secretary general?

[Saddam] Yes, the UN secretary general is always welcome in Iraq.

[Reporter] Your Excellency the president, the United Nations has passed a new resolution, a UN Security Council resolution. What is your comment on this resolution?

[Saddam] Our foreign minister has commented on this decision by saying that it is a new example which shows

that the United States seeks to exacerbate the situation instead of seeking a means for dialogue. This is a U.S. resolution rather than a UN resolution. For us, it was not a surprise, and it brings nothing new because there is an embargo against Iraq by the countries which abided by it. Therefore, the blockade brings nothing new. It only adds a factor of tension in the region.

[Reporter] Do you expect a military confrontation with the United States within the next few days?

[Saddam] We do not wish to see a confrontation. But we do not rule out a U.S. military aggression against our country, because he who commits the crime of encroaching on the lands enshrining our sanctities can perpetrate another crime of aggression against Iraqi lands.

[Reporter] Mr. President, we have learned that President 'Arafat is now in Baghdad with new ideas for an Arab solution. Do you see any possibilities for his efforts?

[Saddam] If the Arabs had been left to address their own problems by themselves, then they would have been able to resolve all of them. We always respect all ideas that seek to achieve peace and avert the specter of war, even those ideas with which we disagree. I believe we have given you enough time, don't you think so?

[Reporter] Can President Kurt Waldheim give us an idea about the talks during which issues were discussed between Iraq and Austria?

[Waldheim] We had very interesting talks, and I am grateful to the president having given me the opportunity to come here and to discuss with His Excellency President Saddam Husayn the crisis of the situation here in the area, in addition to humanitarian problems raised by this crisis. I wish to extend my thanks to the president who allowed the Austrian citizens in Iraq to return home to their country, particularly that the implementation of this order, or this approval will materialize this evening because his excellency the president has ordered to expedite the gathering of the Austrian citizens and to prepare them so that they will accompany me on the plane I will board. Of course, I sincerely hope that a peaceful solution to this crisis will be reached. The impression I now have is that my visit has contributed in more than one way to the settlement of the problem through peaceful means. Once again I thank Mr. President very much on this warm meeting and his humanitarian issue.

[Reporter] Mr. President, the boycott of food, medicine, and other humanitarian issues—how do you view this? Was this stipulated in the resolution on sanctions?

[Waldheim] The UN rules do not include food or medicine in any boycott resolution.

[Reporter] Is there any legal provision on this?

[Waldheim] Yes, there are the existing rules that cover such cases.

[Reporter] Throughout Mr. Kurt Waldheim's long tenure as UN secretary general, had there been any U.S. resolution imposed on other states in such a manner?

[Waldheim] While I was there I faced many crises and situations. However, of course the UN Security Council is the highest organ at the United Nations, and I think I cannot add anything to what is included in the UN Charter and the prerogatives of the United Nations. I believe that Mr. President Saddam Husayn has explained to me and briefed me on his government's position, and therefore, I believe it is inappropriate to me to go far beyond this and to comment on the UN measures. All I hope is that peace will be achieved and a political settlement will be reached in this crisis.

All Austrians Permitted To Leave 'Immediately'

AU2508130690 Vienna ORF Teletext in German 1242 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Excerpt] President Waldheim's spectacular mission in the Gulf is obviously becoming a great success: Iraq's President Husayn has agreed to permit all Austrians who have been detained in Iraq to leave the country immediately. This has been announced by the Austrian President's Office.

Saddam Husayn offered to collect the Austrians, who are waiting in various Iraqi cities, by plane while he is having a second round of talks with Waldheim and to have them return together with the Austrian president. The Austrians are expected to arrive in Austria during the night. The 31 Austrians who fled to Turkey will also be flown to Vienna today. [passage omitted]

Waldheim Thanks Saddam for Austrians' Departure

JN2508153090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1510 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Aug (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn this evening visited Austrian President Kurt Waldheim at his place of residence.

President Kurt Waldheim conveyed to his excellency the president the appreciation and feelings of gratitude of the Austrian community in Iraq for the president's decision to allow them to leave Iraq. President Kurt Waldheim visited the Austrian Embassy in Baghdad this evening.

Leaves With Austrian Nationals

JN2508193890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1915 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Aug (INA)—Austrian President Kurt Waldheim left Baghdad this evening following a short visit to Iraq during which he met with President Saddam Husayn. The talks dealt with bilateral relations and developments in the region.

In deference to Mr. Waldheim, President Saddam Husayn has ordered that all Austrian nationals be

allowed to leave Iraq. They accompanied the Austrian president upon departure from Baghdad.

Efforts Proceed To Evacuate Polish Citizens

LD2408110190 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1005 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] According to information received an hour ago from the Foreign Ministry, our diplomatic outpost in Amman has undertaken efforts, despite the temporary closing of the Iraqi-Jordanian border, to gain the agreement of the Jordanian authorities for the transport from Iraq to Amman of an organized group of Polish citizens. The Foreign Ministry has also renewed consideration of the possibilities for the transit of Poles via Turkey. In the next few days, the return home to the country from Iraq of around 300 Polish citizens is planned.

U.S. Nationals Said Moved to Chemical Complex

AU2608135990 Paris AFP in English 0148 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] Warsaw, Aug 26 (AFP)—Iraq has moved a group of U.S. nationals including women and children to a chemical plant near the Syrian border, Polish returnees said Saturday. The Solidarity newspaper GAZETA reported that 35 American hostages were being held at the al-Qa'im chemical complex near Syria. It based its report on Polish evacuees from Iraq.

Returnees who asked to remain anonymous told Agence France-Presse Saturday that on August 17 a group of foreigners arrived at the al-Qa'im plant under heavy military guard. They said the group, composed of seven men, eight women and two children, spoke with pronounced American accents. One of the children was asleep in a stroller, the returnees who recently arrived here from Iraq told AFP.

GAZETA said several hundred Poles were still working in arms manufacturing plants or other militarily strategic sectors in Iraq. They would be in extreme danger in the event of an armed conflict, the paper warned. The newspaper, quoting Polish Foreign Ministry sources, said that there were 197 Polish technicians employed at the al-Qa'im plant. They were housed in a camp about one kilometer (less than a mile) from the plant itself, GAZETA said. About 200 Poles are employed at oil refineries in al-Basra and another 50 at the Umm Qasr steel plant near the border with Kuwait, GAZETA said.

The Polish Foreign Ministry has been attempting to repatriate them but has so far been unsuccessful. Poland has lost more than two billion dollars as a result of the United Nations trade embargo against Iraq, the newspaper added, most of which could be attributed to the halt of engineering and other service contracts. In addition, Poland was to have received 750,000 metric tons of oil from Iraq this year in repayment of Baghdad's debt to Warsaw.

INA Interviews French 'Hosted' at Installation

JN2508090690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1915 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Aug (INA)—French families hosted at a vital installation have voiced their gratitude for the generous hospitality and services accorded them.

In interviews with the INA, members of these families said they are happy to join the Iraqis in making peace and driving away the specter of war from Iraq and the Arab nation. Mr. Terry Farvinov [name as published] said he hopes for the prevalence of peace, security, and stability throughout the region and the world at large.

He said that the Iraqi people are solicitous and attentive to his needs and that he is optimistic that he and his fiancee will return to his country, where they hope to marry in early September.

Mr. Mark Bianrex [names as published] said he hopes France will not rush into war against friendly Iraq, which he described as a key regional power. He said the only solution to problems lies in negotiations rather than recourse to force and hoped security and peace would return to the region and that he himself could return to his people back home.

Mr. Patrick Meneaut, [name as published] who works for GTC, a Malaysian firm, said he was highly impressed by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and hoped to meet his excellency and chat with him.

Patrick, wearing the traditional Iraqi national costume and saying in Arabic I am Iraqi, hoped peace would prevail in the region and that the United States would not be so rash as to commit aggression against peaceful Iraq.

Mr. Eric Storma [name as published] said France has traditionally been be a nation of dialogue and diplomacy rather than threats and war. He urged that President Saddam Husayn's peace initiatives be given the attention they merit, saying they represent the best solution to the regional problems and hold the promise of averting war and devastation. He and his wife were comfortable and there was no lack of foodstuffs, clothing, and entertainment and amusement, he added.

Jean-Marie [name as published] said he saw television pictures of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn visiting British families hosted by the Iraqi people, describing them as reassuring and heartening. He emphasized that he and his wife are being well looked after and he is optimistic that he will return to France.

Diplomats in Kuwait Lose 'Diplomatic Status'

NC2508145390 Paris AFP in English 1439 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] London, Aug 25 (AFP)—Foreign diplomats in Kuwait have lost their diplomatic status but will not be evicted from embassy premises by force, an Iraqi government official said Saturday.

"We do not use force against these embassies but the people inside have lost their diplomatic immunity and will enjoy no facilities which were offered to them in their capacity as diplomats," Information Ministry director Naji al-Hadithi said.

Speaking to AFP in London by telephone from Baghdad, Mr. al-Hadithi denied reports that there were Iraqi forces stationed outside Western embassies and said there was "nothing abnormal" happening around the diplomatic compounds.

Mr. al-Hadithi's remarks were the first official confirmation that Baghdad no longer considered foreign diplomats in Iraqi-occupied Kuwait as such.

Diplomats' Families Allowed To Leave Kuwait

JN2408195990 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1943 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] Ladies and Gentlemen, we have just received the following:

An official spokesman has stated the following: For humanitarian reasons and in response to an appeal by His Majesty King Husayn to his brother His Excellency President leader Saddam Husayn, it has been decided to allow the families of the diplomats representing the states that have not been cooperative in closing their embassies in the city of Kuwait to leave Iraq and to prevent men in these families from leaving until their states comply with the closure decision. The spokesman declared that Iraq is determined to implement the decision as a right of sovereignty. The spokesman indicated that most states responded to the closure decision and their diplomats have been provided with all facilities to leave.

Assembly Speaker Sends Letter to Americans

JN2408162390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1457 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Aug (INA)—Sa'di Mahdi Salih, speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly, has addressed a message to the American people urging every American citizen who cherishes freedom, justice, truth, and peace to raise his voice in protest against the Bush administration's policies against Arabs and Muslims.

In his message, the speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly declared that President Bush was threatening to trigger a war among whose victims there would be thousands of Americans and Arabs. Therefore, protests would serve the American and Iraqi people, all Arabs in their various countries, and mankind as a whole.

Following is the text of the message.

In the name of God.
We send you greetings of civilization, freedom, and democracy, wishing you and all peoples of the world well being, happiness, and peace.

We have decided to address this message to you because we believe you will better understand and interact with us than President George Bush's administration does because people better understand other people.

Ladies and Gentlemen,
The Bush administration seeks to distort the image you have of the Iraqis and to depict them as terrorists and as harsh men who love war, as well as barbarians who have no consideration at all for international laws, the interests of other nations, and human values.

However, we the Iraqis are not like that. We are not what the Bush administration is describing us to be. We are an ancient people of successive human civilizations, the ancient of which dates back to about 6,000 years. We are the nation of the Mesopotamia, the inheritor of Sumer, Akkad, Babylon, and Ashor. Our people were the first to invent writing and the first to promulgate laws and specify rights 4,500 years ago as detailed by the Hammurabi law. We were the first to establish schools, compose verses and epics, and formulate the most ancient mathematical and astrological theories.

And when the sun of Islam rose on the land of the Arabs, Iraq was the first to receive it and open its heart and mind to its light. Iraq strove for it and carried its banner to the world, and with Islam Iraq became a center of world civilization and its capital Baghdad the capital of peace when Europe itself was still plunged in the darkness of the Middle Ages.

This means, ladies and gentlemen, that civilization, the love of justice, and respect for law, and belief in God, have been handed down to the Iraqis and so became a built-in part of their psycholgical and spiritual fabric in contrast to Bush's contention and what he has been spreading about us. The Iraqis are at the same time as self-respecting a people as are the American people, and they will not have their dignity compromised nor their rights taken away from them or any one pointing guns at them. The Iraqi people are also a resilient, militant, and courageous people, as past history has shown them to be.

In short, the Iraqis are not what they are perceived to be by Mr. George Bush and painted by U.S. and other Western propaganda.

We the Iraqis are today, unjustifiably and under false pretexts, on the receiving end of a conspiracy led by and built up by the Bush administration. Just because we retrieved part of our country which British colonialism had built into a grand hotel called the State of Kuwait and installed there backward, subservient rulers, the Bush administration began making charges that now we want to invade Saudi Arabia, and now we threaten Western interests, including American interests. All this is sheer slander.

Like Iraq, Saudi Arabia is an Arab country and the two are bound by a non-aggression pact signed in 1989. We honor the agreement and abide by its letter and spirit. We have emphasized as much to Saudi Arabia and to the Bush administration and the international community, and we

have stated our readiness to give sufficient guaranteess bilaterally, or in an Arab or international context.

We do not want to threaten any interests of the United States or the West, or any other nation for that matter, since we have a vested interest in regional peace and in a smooth flow of oil to the world and the United States itself in an atmosphere of security and stability.

You must know that before the present crisis erupted we sold one third of our oil to the United States. Perhaps you do not know that we are now in posession of upward of 20 percent of the world's oil needs. Is it in our and the United States' interest that the entire region with its oil go up in flames?

Contrary to the Bush administration's perception of us, we respect others' legitimate interests and appreciate their circumstances and requirements and want to see oil sold at moderate prices; our policies within OPEC bear witness to that.

And more than anything else, we respect international law and are mindful of our responsibilities toward the world and appreciate the importance of the region in which we live and its impact on world politics. Only, we do not like anyone interfering in our domestic affairs, nor do we want for ourselves to become puppets manipulated by others. Neither will we have our dignity and freedom compromised or anyone dictate to us. All we want is for the Iraqi and Arab individual to enjoy the same rights as the Americans in their country.

These ambitions, we believe, are legitimate if others view them from a neutral perspective. However, it is obvious that Mr. Bush's administration has not understood this—or maybe it does not want to understand it. The Bush administration wants to decide for us what we should or should not do. It has not accepted the idea that the southern part of Iraq, Kuwait, should unite with its north, the way the south of the United States united with its north.

The Bush administration wants us to be like those submissive puppets it can manipulate with strings in certain parts of this world, including our region; this would be doing injustice to us, our history and future. Therefore, the Bush administration aroused the feelings of hostility held by some toward us, urged those who went along with it to impose an economic blockade on us, and started to prevent everything from reaching us, including food, medicine, and milk for the infants. It has also recruited fleets, squadrons of planes, and soldiers to commit aggression on us—an act of war and a violation of the UN Charter, whose clauses it interprets anyway it wants—and used all that is available to it from among the methods of persuasion, pressure, and enticement so that other countries would follow suit.

It seems, however, that the Bush administration has not considered in the least the results of what it has planned or put into action. Neither has it remembered the tragedy of Vietnam and the effects on the American people which they are suffering still today. Therefore, it found it easy to push American soldiers into the desolate desert quicksand. It has not taken notice that Iraq is not like Vietnam and that its weapons are not like those of Vietnam. It has not heeded what this aggression would cause for us—feelings of hostility and enmity toward the American people along with the millions of Arabs and Muslims who have begun to volunteer to join us.

Mr. Bush's administration has made itself believe that the Arabs are siding with it. It has not realized that Arabs are not like some of their rulers; they are the masses of the people who are seething with anger against it, and who are preparing to strike at U.S. interests should aggression start against us. Moreover, the Arabs are those nationalist honorable rulers who are clearly siding with us.

Ladies and gentlemen: It is easy for Mr. Bush to fan the flames of war, but it would be very difficult for us and you to bear its tragic consequences. Therefore, and to avoid together this outcome, we call on every American citizen who advocates right, justice, freedom, and peace to raise his voice in protest against the policies of Mr. Bush's administration toward us. We call them to ask Mr. Bush's administration to lift its illegitimate, inhuman blockade, and to stop the conspiracy to starve our people, kill our children, and inhibit our progress. We call them to ask Mr. Bush's administration to withdraw U.S. armies from Arab land and waters, and to stop humiliating our nation and Islamic sanctities. We call Mr. Bush, through you, by virtue of his being an American citizen, to reconsider his hostility toward Iraq before deliberating with his advisers, and to join the protesters, because this protest will render a service to the American and Iraqi people and to all the Arabs and humanity at large, because Mr. Bush is threatening to set a fire whose victims will undoubtedly be thousands of Americans and Arabs.

May God keep you and us away from the evil and atrocities of wars, and away from the evil of hatred and craving for revenge. Peace be upon him who thinks, contemplates, and follows the voice of reason and the call of conscience.

[Signed] Sa'di Mahdi Salih, speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly

Death Sentence Decreed for Sheltering Foreigners

JN2508185990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1843 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Aug (INA)—The Revolution Command Council [RCC] has decided to consider sheltering foreigners with the aim of hiding them from the authorities a crime of espionage. In a decision in this regard, the RCC has decided to apply the death sentence to anyone who commits this crime.

Minister Criticizes Japanese Support for U.S.

OW2508114690 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Interview with Latif Jasim, Iraqi culture and information minister, by NHK correspondent Hirano; Jasim speaks in Arabic with Japanese translation in subtitles; translation is from the Japanese; place and date not given; from the evening news program—recorded]

[Text] [Video shows Jasim in military uniform seated at a table] We are courteously treating Japanese in Iraq since they are our guests. We plan to have them appear on television soon to send messages to their families. However, if Japan does not change its attitude of supporting the United States, we have no choice but to change our attitude.

Rome Embassy Urges Italy To Take 'Neutral Role'

AU2508164090 Rome ANSA in English 0808 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] (ANSA) Rome—The Iraqi Embassy in Rome called on Italy, in its capacity as European Community duty president, to adopt a neutral role so as to bring closer the possibility of a peaceful settlement to the Gulf crisis. Speaking to ANSA Friday, official embassy spokesman Salih al-Karkhi voiced the hope that "Italy will assume a neutral position in the next few hours, to contribute to a negotiated solution to the Gulf crisis."

As for possible consequences of Western not complying with the Iraqi order that all embassies in Kuwait be shut down at midnight Friday, Al-Karkhi said he was not able to give any further information. "I only know," he said, "that diplomatic immunities will be lifted, as the Iraqi Government has already said, and I have had no news of other restrictive or aggressive positions towards any staff that should decide to stay in the embassies."

As for the possibility, ventilated in diplomatic circles here, that the Italian Government may decide reciprocal measures against the Iraqi Embssy in Rome, Al-Karkhi said: "We have received no official communication in this regard from the Italian Government, and therefore we are calmly carrying on our work."

Official Spokesman on Gorbachev Message to Saddam

JN2508092090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0855 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Aug (INA)—An official spokesman has stated the following:

At 1730 [1330 GMT] yesterday [24 August], the Soviet ambassador in Baghdad communicated to the foreign minister a message addressed to President Saddam Husayn from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev calling for adopting measures of a radical nature, as mentioned in the message, and asking that a response to the message be given before 1900 [1500 GMT] on the same day [24 August]; otherwise, the USSR would be compelled to vote in favor of the U.S. draft resolution presented to the Security Council regarding the imposition of an economic embargo against Iraq.

The foreign minister told the Soviet ambassador that such a procedure is neither regular nor does it have a precedent in relations among states, taking into account the difficulty of communicating the message to the president under such circumstances. How can a response be made to a message with such content within less than one and a half hours?

Nevertheless, the message was conveyed to President Saddam Husayn. His excellency replied:

"If Mr. Gorbachev wants to receive a full reply, then we hope that the USSR will seek to delay the adoption of the resolution for a few days."

The official spokesman said such behavior from the Soviet side seems to be an attempt to find an excuse to go ahead with voting for the resolutions imposed by the United States on the Security Council.

The spokesman stressed that Iraq's position is crystal-clear: It cannot possibly yield to U.S. pressure or threats, whether they are direct or through Security Council circles that, in fact, have become instruments affiliated with the U.S. Administration.

AL-NIDA' Criticizes Soviet Stance on Crisis

JN2608111390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0940 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] Kuwait, 26 Aug (INA)—The newspaper AL-NIDA' affirms that Iraq will not cede a single grain of its legitimate rights and that it will not yield to threats, blackmail, and pressures. In an editorial published today, the paper says that Iraq will resist any attempts or deals that seek to undermine its sovereignty, security, and stability.

Criticizing the Soviet stand, the paper says: Iraq wishes that the USSR had not fallen prey to the machinations of the U.S. policy, and that it had not been influenced by the methods and intrigues of this policy. The paper adds that Iraq had looked forward to seeing the USSR play its real well-known role by taking effective action and adopting a position based on a long-term perspective that unequivocally and clearly rejects the U.S. and western methods to impose hegemony—methods based on the pursuit of blackmail, terrorism, and threats on the pretext of using 'international legitimacy,' which Washington confiscated at the UN Security Council.

AL-NIDA' affirms that the attempts to line up against Iraq will not undermine its resolve and determination, as Iraq has decided to persist in its path to the finish. Besides, the Iraqis are gripping their rifles firmly while their eyes are alert to all eventualities.

The paper adds: Until very recently, frankness, clarity, the rules governing a careful and in-depth dialogue, and an exchange of views used to mark Iraqi-USSR ties—a

matter which allowed for the development of bilateral ties between the two states and peoples in a manner serving their common interests and objectives.

AL-NIDA' goes on to say: The USSR has seen with its own eyes the U.S. and western methods of procrastination and blackmail. It has also been privy to the maneuvers staged by Washington and its Western allies on the eve of the passing by the UN Security Council of an embargo resolution against Iraq under unusual, if not abnormal circumstances. This shows that the U.S. Administration has begun to use its old colonialist schemes to plunder the peoples' wealth and confiscate their rights to a free and stable life with the use of military might, aggression, and brute force.

The paper asserts that the U.S. Administration has violated the UN Charter and that UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar testifies to this.

AL-NIDA' says that the killing and slaying that is taking place in the occupied Palestinian territories provide sufficient evidence that exposes the pro-Zionist U.S. position, as the United States uses the veto right to protect its Zionist allies.

The paper wonders about the international legitimacy which Washington claims to protect and champion, while hundreds of resolutions have, over tens of years, remained stacked in the filing cabinets of the UN Security Council and the United Nations. The paper adds that Washington violated international legitimacy when it brought in its fleets, troops, and aircraft to the region and turned the embargo resolution into a hostile military blockade against Iraq.

AL-NIDA' asserts that choosing selfish and transient interests and lining up with the enemy will benefit nobody and that the peoples' will is invincible. The paper adds: International detente which Washington talks of is a big lie, as long as its objectives contravene detente, justice, and the rule of law.

The paper warns that heading toward relinquishing real international responsibilities is a serious matter, but, falling prey to the machinations of the U.S. Administration's policy is more serious.

Military To Retaliate if Ships 'Sunk, Damaged'

JN2608045790 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] Iraq has declared that it will immediately reply militarily in the event that any of its ships are sunk or damaged by any of the warships which are trying to impose the implementation of the sea blockade on Iraq.

Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim has said: If they attack us, we will attack them and sink one or two of their ships. Latif Nusayyif Jasim added that he does not rule out that a military conflict in the Gulf will eventually affect the oil fields.

Won't Retaliate Against Saudis

JN2608053390 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0505 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] Iraqi Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim warned that his country will respond immediately if any of its ships are sunk or damaged by the fire of the international fleet which is deployed in the Gulf to impose the blockade against Iraq.

The Iraqi minister explained that his country will not carry out retaliatory actions against Saudi Arabia or against oil tankers which are on their way to Ra's al-Tannurah oil terminal to ship the Saudi oil. However, he did not rule out that confrontation between Iraq and the international fleet might eventually damage the Saudi oil fields.

U.S. Repeating Vietnam 'Mistake' in Gulf

LD2408230690 Baghdad International Service in English 2000 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Special program: "Be aware of Iraq's Retaliation"]

[Text] America's flagrant intervention in the Arab Gulf region is a new act in the series of the United States' attempts to impose hegemony on the world. It is an act which proves that the mentality of the U.S. administration has never changed with the change of faces that took power in the White House. This proves that the United States' politicians never learn from the lessons of history. The Vietnam wounds have not yet healed, especially as thousands of American soldiers are still suffering from the psychological impact of that dirty war. Many others are crippled, or at least suffer from one or another kind of disability. Tens of thousands of other young men were killed in that war.

The United States seems bent on repeating the same mistake. It is gearing for an aggression against Iraq, which is thousands of miles away from the U.S. shores. It is bent on a new adventure that is doomed to another defeat and failure for the White House and its politicians.

It is better for the United States to be aware of Iraq's military might, and its politicians must be well informed of the size of catastrophe which may befall the Americans if the U.S. troops attacked Iraq. In drawing up plans for their aggression, U.S. officials appear to have skipped one important factor, that is, the potentialities of the Iraqi individual, which proved to be limitless throughout the ages of war. If the United States attacked Iraq the American war machinery will receive a severe and unforgettable defeat. Iraq is determined to crush any aggression and the massive build-up of U.S. forces is not going to intimidate its people or army. Iraq would fight with great force to defend its sovereignty and independence, and the aggressors would suffer unimaginable losses. The cost of aggression would be too heavy to be tolerated by the Americans this time.

Jasim Mocks Report on Cruise Missiles Target

JN2608105990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1027 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Aug (INA)—Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim has ridiculed the report published in the SUNDAY TIMES newspaper and carried by the Zionist entity's radio to the effect that U.S. cruise missiles are aimed at the headquarters of President Saddam Husayn.

The minister said that His Excellency President Saddam Husayn does not have a headquarters. He added that the president neither has palaces nor is he a lover of riches and headquarters at the expense of peoples. He went on to say: Saddam Husayn is the son of the people whom he has loved all along. The homes of all the Iraqis are his permanent residence. As for his kinfolk, they are the Iraqis, because he is their grateful son who made sacrifices for them. To the Iraqis, he is the apple of their eye.

The culture and information minister affirmed that what is being propagated by the Zionist media is an exposed attempt which is part of the desperate psychological warfare that is a source of amusement for the proud sons of our people. He added: So, let their trumpets be silenced. May the voice of proud Iraq rise louder under the banner of its beloved leader Saddam Husayn, may God protect and safeguard him.

Nation Said To Send Weapons to Sudan, Yemen

NC2508110690 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] According to Egyptian military sources today, Iraq has sent unspecified number of fighters to Yemen and Sudan as a strategic reserve should a war break out with U.S. forces in the Gulf. It should be recalled that Sudan and Yemen declined to condemn the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Meanwhile, the AL-FAJR newspaper, which is published in the United Arab Emirates, reports today that Iraq has sent surface-to-surface missiles to Sudan to be installed in areas facing Saudi Arabia.

Source Denies Planes Sent

JN2508145890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1445 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Aug (INA)—An authorized source has denied news reports carried by some reactionary newspapers and propagated by Israeli radio to the effect that Iraq moved fighter planes to Sudan and Yemen last week.

The source added: We know the source of these news reporters as well as the propagators who always seek to fragment Arab ranks and destroy the unity of the Arab nation's masses. We would like to affirm the strong ties existing between us and the brothers in Sudan and Yemen.

Says No Gas, Guns Sent to Sudan

JN2508201690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1947 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Aug (INA)—A responsible source denies what the British publication FOREIGN REPORT says—that Iraq supplied Sudan with poisonous gas and South African-made 155-mm guns, and that the strong ties between the Iraqi and Sudanese presidents have begun to cause great concern in the Egyptian capital.

The source explains that those who fabricated this report aim to hurt Iraq's relations with its Arab and African brothers because the brotherly support Iraq has given to fraternal Sudan in the past was meant to bolster Sudanese national unity against foreign interventions in the southern part of the country. That aid did not include poisonous gas or any such things.

As for the South African guns, these are sheer lies. Iraq unequivocally boycotts the racist regime in Pretoria which cooperates with the Zionist enemy, the joint enemy of the Arab nation and the militant African peoples.

The source stresses that ties between Baghdad and Khartoum are strong, and says those ties are fraternal ones for the benefit of all Arabs and are not directed against anyone. Some people, he says, may be upset by the depth of the noble pan-Arab feelings that the Sudanese people and leadership have shown in solidarity with Iraq, and in denunciation of the U.S.-NATO invasion of our sacred Arab lands.

The source says the report in the mentioned publication is full of contradictions, and is part of the imperialist-Zionist campaign against Iraq and the Arab nation which will only reap failure and disappointment.

U.S. Reports of 'Internal Split' Rejected

JN2508150490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1446 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Aug (INA)—An authorized source has refuted the U.S. NBC television network reports that there is an internal split in Iraq, and that this split has led to the withdrawal of Presidential Guard units from Kuwait.

The source stressed that these reports are mere lies and the product of sheer imagination, wishful thinking on the part of Zionism. These reports are disseminated by colonialist circles and their like. The source declared that the masses of the Iraqi people stand as a cohesive force behind their leader President Saddam Husayn and their brave army, which has faith in the unity of Iraq and the Arab nation. The source said these masses will not be affected by the trivialities of Zionist and imperialist U.S. propaganda.

Source Denies Planes Fired Upon at Saudi Border

JN2508085790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0835 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Aug (INA)—An official authoritative source has denied a report appearing in THE WASHINGTON POST yesterday and disseminated by some news

agencies that Iraqi MiG-23 fighter planes opened fire on two F-15 planes that were on a patrol mission along the Iraqi-Saudi border without hitting them. The source said that this report is merely slander, false and baseless. The source added that we know the intentions of such news, namely, to distort the political and military position, the blatant U.S. interference, and the mammoth denunciation of this interference directed against Iraq and the Arab nation.

Saddam, Qaddumi Exchange 'Battle' Solidarity Vows

JN2408205890 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2020 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn today received Mr. Faruq Qaddumi, foreign minister of the State of Palestine. Mr. Qaddumi conveyed an oral message to the leader president from Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine.

The message asserts the solidarity of the Palestinian people and leadership with Iraq against imperialist aggression. In his message, Mr. 'Arafat also asserts that the just battle Iraq is fighting against the enemies of the nation embodies the Arabs' aspirations toward an era of dignity and prosperity. The president of the state of Palestine emphasizes that opposition to imperialist aggression is indivisible from struggle for the Palestine question and the liberation of Palestine and holy Jerusalem from Zionist occupation.

Leader President Saddam Husayn expressed appreciation for the position of Palestinian people and leadership inside and outside the occupied territories on the honorable battle Iraq is waging against imperialist aggression. His excellency also asserted that solidarity among Arab countries and masses can inflict defeat on the imperialists and foil their schemes, and that the Arab nation all over the great homeland can extend to the pan-Arab battle against imperialism all the requirements, needs, and sacrifices it entails. His excellency added that this battle cannot be separated from the struggle to liberate Palestine, especially since imperialists and Zionists have stood in one trench against the Arab nation. At the same time, this battle has laid bare the schemes of conspirators on Iraq and Palestine and the Arab nation. Leader President Saddam Husayn expressed confidence that the Arab nation and its honorable forces will win this just battle.

The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Saddam Chairs Meeting on Arab Situation

JN2408210290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2054 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Aug (INA)—President Saddam Husayn this evening chaired a joint meeting of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command. The meeting reviewed the situation in the Arab and international arenas.

Report of Executions of Army Officers Denied

JN2708080990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0723 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Aug (INA)—A responsible source has denied a report transmitted by REUTER yesterday that Iraqi Army senior officers were executed. The source described the report as a mere fabrication produced by the suspects along with the agents who are mourning the fate of their buried masters. In a statement to INA, the source said that our brave Armed Forces—their brave officers, soldiers, and all ranks—are above all the fabrications of the agents and henchmen. They will remain very loyal to their great homeland Iraq and its victorious leader Staff Field Marshal Saddam Husayn.

The source added that the Iraqi Armed Forces, which are known and experienced by the enemy before the friend, have always been the striking iron hand of the great people of Iraq in defense of the Arab nation and its glorious message under victorious leader Saddam Husayn.

Algerian Minister Visits Amman, Baghdad

LD2408225790 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Excerpts] The Gulf: The West continues to talk in terms of an imminent war. [passage omitted] The Arab side, on the other hand, continues to wish to settle the problem by means of diplomacy. Is there an Algerian attempt at mediation? If there is, it has not been announced officially in Algiers. But one can already perhaps talk of Algerian efforts: After Amman, [Foreign Minister] Sid Ahmed Ghazali is in Baghdad. He has had a meeting with the Iraqi foreign minister, Mr. Tariq 'Aziz, before being received this evening by the Iraqi president, Saddam Husayn. In Iraq no further details are given about this visit.

Holds Talks With Hammadi

LD2608104590 Algiers APS in English 1005 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 26 August (APS)—Foreign Minister, Sid Ahmed Ghazali had talks yesterday with the member of the Iraqi Revolution Command Council Sa'dun Hammadi who is also vice president of the council of ministers.

Talks dealt with the examination of bilateral relations and the latest developments of the situation on the Arab and international scenes as well as questions of common interest.

It is worth recalling that Ghazali who arrived Friday [24 August] in Baghdad coming from Amman was received by Saddam Husayn to whom he conveyed a message from President Chadli Bendjedid.

Before that, Sid Ahmed Ghazali held a working session with his Iraqi counterpart, Tariq 'Aziz.

Officials Interviewed, Discuss Gulf Crisis

Shamir Views Weapons to Arabs

TA2608181290 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by parliamentary correspondent Eli Nisan in Shamir's office on 26 August—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Nisan] Mr. Prime Minister, in light of the UN resolution yesterday on the enforcement of the blockade of Iraq, are things coming to a head in the Persian Gulf?

[Shamir] The UN Security Council resolution certainly introduced an element of greater stability into the evolving confrontation between Iraq and the rest of what I would call the civilized world. It is a very rare occasion which has hardly ever happened before when the Security Council unanimously empowers an international body to employ force to enforce its resolutions.

[Nisan] Still, Mr. Prime Minister, is there any chance that the crisis could be resolved in diplomatic ways, in light of the various mediation efforts, including that of the UN secretary general?

[Shamir] It is difficult to provide an unequivocal answer to that. Naturally, theoretically, if Saddam Husayn accepts all the demands of him—if he pulls out of Kuwait and agrees to restore the legitimate Kuwaiti government and takes several other moves—then perhaps the entire issue will be resolved. But the facts have shown that it is almost inevitable that the conflict will probably develop until it reaches its peak.

[Nisan] Mr. Shamir, should the diplomatic efforts fail, to what degree will Israel find itself involved in the Persian Gulf crisis?

[Shamir] Israel is not and should not be involved. Whenever people mention the fear that it will be involved, it is only because of the threats of Iraq, whose ruler periodically emphasizes that Israel is guilty of some things and notes his desire to harm it. If he does not, Israel will not be involved.

[Nisan] Has Israel's noninvolvement not pushed it to the sidelines, if only from the U.S. strategic point of view?

[Shamir] Look, it is not our aspiration to take up center stage when the issue is conflict. If we are attacked, we must defend ourselves; if there is no attack, we think about no other considerations. In this specific case, we are totally uninterested in getting involved, whether we are on the sidelines or whether we are the focal point.

[Nisan] But Israel has not relinquished its strategic regional importance for the United States?

[Shamir] Israel must be Israel. It must be loyal to itself, it must adhere to its principles, and then there will be no reason whatsoever for concern.

[Nisan] Mr. Shamir, in view of Syria and Egypt's sympathetic positions toward the United States in the current crisis, is there no fear that Israel might be pressured, once the crisis is over, to make concessions on the Palestinian issue?

[Shamir] Pressure on Israel has been mentioned all the time. Israel does not succumb to pressure. This will hold true in the future as well.

[Nisan] Mr. Prime Minister, what is Israel's position in light of the U.S. agreement to supply sophisticated weapons to Saudi Arabia?

[Shamir] It is not the first time the United States has supplied weapons to Arab countries, specially those countries that have the wherewithal to pay for the quantities of advanced weapons they purchase from the United States. This has been Israel's longstanding policy, which has never changed: It objects to the flow of additional, sophisticated weapons to countries that do not maintain peaceful relations with it. This has always been Israel's position.

As the years go by, additional reasons serve to strengthen this position of Israel. We saw what happened in Kuwait just recently. Kuwait had received, or rather procured, from the United States substantial quantities of weapons of the best quality and the pretext for that has always been that Kuwait had to be given the opportunity to defend itself. What use did Kuwait make of the weapons that had been given to it, and where are these weapons now? We know: They are in Iraq. This is an additional reason.

It is difficult for us to imagine that Saudi Arabia would use the weapons it receives from the United States for its defense. But interests differ and the circumstances are different, and we are aware of all these factors. We do not think that what Saudi Arabia currently lacks or needs are additional weapons.

[Nisan] In light of this, will Israel seek greater U.S. military aid?

[Shamir] Certainly Israel needs additional means to protect itself against the threats we hear every day.

[Nisan] Mr. Shamir, the Jordanian king has been evincing growing support for Saddam Husayn and has demonstrated his lack of interest in joining the international effort to impose a blockade on Iraq. What do you think motivates the Jordanian monarch to take that stance, and how can this affect Israel's future attitude toward him?

[Shamir] There really is no need for me to explain the Jordanian king's positions or motives. At any rate, his position, in our view, conflicts with Israel's interests, endangers its security, and does not in any way help him survive.

[Nisan] In view of this, what will Israel's attitude toward him be in the future?

[Shamir] It is hard to tell; who can predict the future? It is difficult to determine the nature of that future, but the Jordanian king knows full well that Israel has no aggressive intentions against him.

Arens on Saddam Threat, Response

TA2508083290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0705 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Menashe] Defense Minister Moshe Arens, the tension in the gulf is reaching its peak. If Israel is forced to take part in a war, according to the prime minister, it will have to win fast. Do you believe that Saddam Husayn will try to get Israel involved?

[Arens] I would not like to guess what this man will or will not do. He is a little unpredictable. Although he is a calculating person, we must remember that he has already miscalculated twice: once in the war with Iran, and the other time when he invaded Kuwait. So, it is hard to tell. I am certain he knows that he should fear Israel. The prime minister has said that under certain circumstances we will hurt him terribly, as he put it. I believe Saddam is aware of that. If, despite that—despite our great deterrent capability—he tries to involve us, in order to present this confrontation as one involving Israel or even led by Israel.... [changes thought] It is hard to predict. It is possible; we are taking this into consideration.

[Menashe] It was reported that Iraq has an ability to produce nuclear weapons within two weeks. Are you aware of that?

[Arens] To the best of my knowledge, it is impossible to manufacture nuclear bombs in a few weeks. If this report is saying that he has been working on this for years, and has now reached the stage where in a few weeks he can complete it, to the best of my knowledge this is not the case. We have appealed to various countries—the United States, Western Europe, and Japan—not to assist Saddam Husayn with anything that relates to armament. Naturally, when nonconventional weapons such as chemical or nuclear arms are involved, the issue is all the more serious. If we consider the man in question, it is even serious to sell him upgraded fighter planes or missiles.

Until three weeks ago, when the crisis broke out, the countries we addressed had not responded too enthusiastically to us. For years we have been calling their attention to the fact that the power Saddam Husayn now holds was purchased from outside—either by buying the products or by paying the scientists and engineers who are working, or rather, who worked for him. Today, one of the advantages of this crisis—and it has advantages—is that the real face of Saddam Husayn has been exposed to all. What we have known all along is now known in Washington, Paris, London, and Tokyo. That is why it should be expected that from now on—it is late, though not too late—Europe, the United States, and Japan will make the effort to prevent Saddam Husayn from obtaining weapons, weapon components, technology, and scientific expertise—and I have no doubt they will make that effort.

[Menashe] One of the assessments, as you said, is that Saddam will involve Israel in order to win Arab sympathy. Is Israel expecting any assistance from the United States? Is it clear to Israel that the United States will come to its aid if it is attacked by Iraq?

[Arens] Before I answer your question, I would like to say a few words about the situation in general, and its meaning to us in particular. We are all aware of the threat, which exists, and the tension we are experiencing. At the same time it is worth remembering that, in fact, there has been a significant improvement in the conditions of the State of Israel. For years we have been facing Saddam Husayn alone, even in recent years and months. Had a confrontation broken out—and it could have, because after all he had threatened us before the Kuwait crisis—it would have been us against him. We were alone. Today we see almost the whole world—led by the United States—confronting him. This is a major change in our favor.

[Menashe] Will the United States come to Israel's aid if we are attacked?

[Arens] I cannot speak for the United States. I believe, however, that if fighting breaks out and Israel is attacked, we will not stand alone.

[Menashe] Mr. Arens, does Israel have any information about Iraq's ability to use chemical weapons or conventional long-range missiles against us?

[Arens] We know that they have the technological ability. At the same time, I mentioned our deterrent strength. It is very great. We know that Saddam is impressed by it. He has made some remarks about it on more than one occasion. I believe, therefore, that we can trust our deterrent ability, while preparing for everything.

[Menashe] Several questions were raised by the public. Do you believe that we will have adequate warning of an Iraqi assault? Is it possible to equip the public with gas masks in time?

[Arens] In the missile era, it is theoretically possible that an attack could take place with no early warning. It takes approximately four minutes for a missile launched from Iraq to reach Israel. We have no reason to assume that we will get an early warning, or that we can be assured that we will have one; not even within those four minutes. As I said before, however, the deterrent element is there, and it carries a very heavy weight. We know that it is recognized and considered in Iraq. That is why I think we have every reason to believe in our deterrence, while, as I said, we should be prepared—and we are ready.

[Menashe] Is Israel's information policy clear enough? An appearance by a single officer on television causes public panic.

[Arens] You do not look to be in a state of panic to me. I was in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv today, and I had my hair cut in Qiryat Ono. I met no one who looked panicked. It is my impression that the Israeli public is not panicking. It is a very strong and experienced public. We have high grades when it comes to withstanding tension, now as in the past.

[Menashe] Mr. Arens, the U.S. defense secretary has confirmed that the U.S. Administration will make a large special weapons sale to Saudi Arabia. Will the State of Israel, in the current crisis, continue to maintain its traditional opposition?

[Arens] We are traditionally against it; we have grounds for that and we are right. When a country that declares it is in a state of war with us—and Saudi Arabia has—receives weapons, this constitutes a threat to us—perhaps not an immediate threat, but possibly a future one. Today we understand that the Americans are under pressure to supply Saudi Arabia with weapons. We also understand the circumstances that created this pressure. This, however, is an issue we will have to discuss with the Americans. In the discussions we will present our reservations.

[Menashe] A state of alert continues in Jordan. Is Israel concerned?

[Arens] Concern in Israel, if it exists, is about the situation as a whole. We do not fear the Jordanian Army, although we do not want to fight it. We hope there will be no reason for fighting between the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the Jordanian Army. I believe that the state of alert in the Jordanian Army indicates Jordanian concern. Some will say that they are concerned over an Israeli attack. If that is the reason, they have nothing to be concerned about. We are not preparing to attack Jordan. Some will say the concern is about the regime's stability. It is possible. In any case, we do not see any threat to us from the Jordanian side at this moment.

[Menashe] How do you view the Jordanian king with respect to Israel?

[Arens] The Jordanian king has problems. We know and hope he will overcome them. We would not like to see his regime fall apart or a state of anarchy in Jordan. He is also a king who claims he is in a state of war with us. I believe that if he is overthrown, those who would replace him might not be much better.

[Menashe] The events in the Gulf are changing the situation in the Middle East. Is this a good opportunity to try reaching an agreement with Syria?

[Arens] I believe that under the current circumstances and the existing tension, there is no way to conduct productive political contacts. The question is, will this state of affairs—Syria joining Egypt, practically siding with the United States against Iraq—bring about a shift in the Syrian position on Israel? Will this cause Syria to want to join Egypt in the peace move with Israel—to join the circle of peace with Israel? This is the question. So far we have not seen any signs pointing in that direction. We hope that closer relations between Syria and Egypt will not cause the opposite—Syria's pulling Egypt away from the peace process. We hope that Egypt succeeds in pulling Syria into the peace process.

[Menashe] In any case, when the crisis is over, do you view a change in the Middle East, in the balance here?

[Arens] It is hard to predict things in the Middle East. It is not certain, however, that when the crisis is over, the Middle East will look just as it did before the crisis broke out.

[Menashe] Thank you.

Shomron on Chances of Iraqi Attack

TA2408190090 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1715 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Interview with Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, chief of the general staff, by military correspondent Moshe Shlonsky, "this evening," place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Shlonsky] Good evening, Mr. Chief of Staff.

[Shomron] Good evening.

[Shlonsky] You have assumed a very heavy responsibility by deciding not to distribute gas masks to the public. Is the reason for this your assessment that the chances of a gas attack are low, or is it because you fear panic?

[Shomron] Look, today Iraq is facing the strongest international coalition we have witnessed for many years—in the center of which is the strongest superpower, the United States—at a time when their former supporting superpower, the USSR, is not on their side. Iraq is in very grave trouble. We, in Israel, are not at a state of emergency. It is true that in his effort to break through the blockade, Saddam Husayn warns that Israel—which is a common enemy of the Arab countries—is in the picture as well. He is doing this with lies, such as reporting that we sent our pilots, in disguise, with the U.S. troops. We must remember one thing: Iraq and Saddam Husayn are in trouble, and there is no state of emergency here in Israel.

[Shlonsky] Perhaps because he is in trouble, we should be concerned because he could use his chemical option as a desperate step.

[Shomron] Indeed, on his part it makes sense to get Israel involved to eliminate the legitimacy of this international truce against him. At the same time, we must remember that technical capability means nothing. We must remember that when someone is considering using nonconventional weapons, the technical aspect is only one of the components. I wish to remind you that in the Yom Kipur War, we fought a very difficult war against two Arab countries, both of which had chemical weapons.

Neither dared use them, in a difficult situation, in a state of war. Incidentally, we did not even distribute gas masks in Israel at the time.

[Shlonsky] You, therefore, believe that the decision will not be changed, and you will not decide to distribute gas masks?

[Shomron] I did not say that. I wish to say the following: The probability that he will really dare to use this or that kind of weapon—and it makes no difference, it could be a bomb or chemical weapons—is very low. He knows that Israel is the strongest country in the Middle East. A situation of war against an international coalition is no time for him to open another front with this strong country. The probability is very low. Still, we take every possibility seriously, even if it is a small possibility.

[Shlonsky] You know that the public has a feeling of unease. No one comes out in an official and orderly manner to say what the situation is, good or bad. They want someone to tell them: This is the state of affairs; these are the odds; be prepared for this and that. Could you tell us, more or less, what the chances are of us being involved, if war breaks out in the Gulf? Incidentally, you have not yet answered my question about the chances of the use of chemical weapons against us. Are there such chances?

[Shomron] Primarily, our situation is good. I am glad to see Iraq entangled in a move that perhaps had some immediate tactical successes, but now Saddam is facing his biggest strategic mistake, and he is in a bad position. This is good.

As for the chances: For many years we have been within missile range of several Arab countries, including missiles with chemical warheads. We are not in a state of emergency because we believe that the probability is very low. Nevertheless, we take very seriously even the slightest chance. I wish to tell the public—which is adult in its thinking: The state of Israel has faced situations much more difficult than this, naturally. I wish to convey the folowing message through you: First, we have quite enough deterrence against Iraq. Second, we have, ready in our stores for every man, woman, and child, personal protection kits.

Concerning the decision of when to distribute the gas masks: I believe that the public has enough common sense. It realizes that such a decision would have an effect both on the home front and the external world. I am asking the public to trust the decisionmakers who know the circumstances, who consider the possibilities, and who have the information. Please, leave the decision of when to distribute gas masks to the decisionmakers, who have the responsibility and information not available to all the people, and rightfully so. We cannot afford to allow this information to get out. We could not limit it just to the internal audience. I wish to remind you of another thing. Even if we decided to distribute the gas masks, this would not mean that we were entering a state of emergency. The gas masks would be kept at home in their package—not for use, we would not be at a state of emergency—instead of being stored in Army stores.

[Shlonsky] Do you believe that if there is a confrontation in the Gulf, Israel will be involved?

[Shomron] I believe that there is a very high probability it will not be involved. At the same time, we are not excluding such a possibility, and we are getting ready.

[Shlonsky] Mr. Chief of Staff, thank you.

Netanyahu Views UN Resolutions

TA2608170890 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1500 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Interview in the studio with Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu by Dan Shilon—live]

[Text] [Shilon] Good evening Mr. Netanyahu.

[Netanyahu] Good evening,

[Shilon] To start our interview, I would like to hear your opinion as someone who served as the Israeli ambassador to the United Nations. You are familiar with the framework of the United Nations, which after all, was ridiculed until quite recently, and considered to be an almost moribund organization of virtually no importance. Now this body has suddenly been revitalized—what has actually happened here?

[Netanyahu] There has been a renaissance of this organization because the UN has now become a tool in implementing the kind of tasks it was supposed to carry out, at least as far as this aspect of its activities is concerned—in other words, to keep the peace, or at least to prevent aggression. The achievement by the United States is very significant. I can tell you that from my experience of four years at the United Nations, and also out of my knowledge of its history, that this constitutes a very great achievement. The United States has, to all intents and purposes, set up an international network, acting within a legal framework—and the legal aspect is something that is very important for the United States in its activity—in order to take action against Iraq. This constitutes a great achievement.

[Shilon] The actions against Iraq are, however, limited. And it [not further specified] is bound not to act beyond the license it was given. Has it not actually tied itself down?

[Netanyahu] I do not think so. I think that these issues are open for intepretation. At any rate, one thing is clear—the UN Security Council was previously not in agreement regarding the adoption of steps to enforce the embargo. Incidentally, embargoes have been leveled in the course of the UN's history—but this time it is being enforced. I think we should welcome this international convocation, because in this case I think it serves a purpose that is of importance to all of us.

[Shilon] Would the United Nations, as you know it, also give the United States the green light to take the next step if Washington decides to launch a military operation?

[Netanyahu] Look, the minute one takes any kind of action arguments obviously become possible. However, I think what is significant is the position taken by the Soviet Union. Two days ago [24 August] I was asked about this by someone, and I said that in my opinion the Soviet Union should be no less interested than the United States in crushing the Iraqi aggression. I am happy to see that the Soviets have indeed come around, and I am convinced that they are aware of the significance of this resolution taken by the United Nations.

[Shilon] Are you a party to Ze'ev Schiff's [HA'ARETZ military analyst] estimation that the 51 percent chance of war breaking out in the region has now dropped to 50 percent or even less?

[Netanyahu] I do not know. I find it hard to estimate. I would certainly be very pleased to see this crisis end without any fighting. However, as far as the Israelis are concerned, we must understand that we were in a situation in which this tyrant was building up his military power against us; clearly not only against us—because he eventually directed it against others. Now an international front has consolidated against something it considers a danger to the international community, but which also obviously constitutes a danger to Israel, and this is very important.

[Shilon] However, Ze'ev Schiff also spoke of the no less serious danger of this crisis somehow blowing over without any military confrontation, leaving Saddam Husayn in possession of his entire arsenal [previous word in English] including the option of atomic weapons. I will add something Ze'ev Schiff did not say: Maybe we Israelis will be forced to face the problem?

[Netanyahu] The problem is not just ours. We have been saying this all the time. We also said this, incidentally, even before the crisis broke out. We briefed many governments, primarily—but not only—the United States regarding the danger constituted by Iraq's weapon stockpiles; the dangers of the Iraqi tyranny and Saddam Husayn's tendencies. We stress that although Israel is clearly concerned with its own security first and foremost, we are talking about a savage country headed by such an irresponsible regime, which has ballistic missiles, with atomic weapons [as heard]; this is not just a threat to Israel but to the entire world. I think that this is understood in most of the world's capitals today.

[Shilon] You know that there are voices in Israel today—and I would not be surprised if those voices were spurred on by several, but not many, Israeli ministers—saying that Israel should not wait for the Americans to act; this is Israel's problem and Israel should take action against Iraq itself.

[Netanyahu] I believe Israel is doing the right thing. I do not think we should act hastily. I opine that an international coalition has been established. I believe that the United States and President Bush are determined to turn back the Iraqi aggression. I would not propose, I would most firmly advise against Israel jumping into the lead. Of course, I am expressing my own private opinion, which I have expressed in other forums, but you can already assume that I am also expressing the Israeli Government's position.

[Shilon] Thank you very much Deputy Foreign Minister Netanyahu.

Alleged Iraqi Nuclear Capability Viewed

TA2608145090 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 26 Aug 90 p A4

[Report by Re'uven Pedatzur and Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpt] Defense Minister Moshe Arens has said that to the best of his understanding and knowledge, contrary to THE DAILY MAIL reports on Friday, Iraq is incapable of manufacturing nuclear bombs within a matter of weeks.

Senior military sources gave a similar assessment. They believe the report was speculative and has no firm factual basis. Avi Pazner, the prime minister's media adviser, said the report was "surprising." [passage omitted]

Senior Israeli military sources have reported that Iraqi possession of enriched uranium has been a known fact for some time, but that their difficulties in manufacturing a nuclear bomb are not necessarily in this sphere.

Israel is closely monitoring Saddam Husayn's attempts to produce a nuclear bomb. According to assessments that prevail among authoritative sources, Iraq will achieve nuclear capability sometime between five and 10 years.

Western scientists are involved in the Iraqi nuclear project. Some of them have their governments' tacit consent to their involvement.

It is believed that if a war breaks out in the Gulf, Iraq's nuclear installations will constitute prime targets on the U.S. list.

Israeli experts maintain that this would be a one-time opportunity to delay, or perhaps even totally halt, the Iraqi nuclear project. From Israel's point of view, it will be greatly advantageous if the United States does that job.

If the Iraqi nuclear installations are not destroyed, said the Israeli experts, it will probably be impossible to halt the program. The Middle East will constantly turn into a nuclear zone within a few years.

Against the backdrop of Saddam Husayn's conduct and activities, nuclear power in his hands could become a supreme means of extortion that could lead to a total upsetting of the rules of the game between Israel and the Arab world, or within the Arab world itself.

Arens Adviser Comments

TA2408123490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Excerpt] Another reaction in Israel to the DAILY MAIL report that Iraq is capable of producing two atom bombs in

two weeks: Dani Nave, the defense minister's media adviser, has said that it is impossible to confirm this piece of information. At the same time, Dani Nave told our correspondent Karmela Menashe that it is known that Saddam Husayn continues his efforts to develop a nuclear capability. The defense minister's adviser expressed the hope that now that the world has been awakened to the potential behind Saddam Husayn's threats, an international effort will be made to make sure Iraq does not attain a nuclear capability. [passage omitted]

Official Says Jordan Bridges Open to Refugees

TA2608120590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Excerpts] Israel is getting ready for the possibility that many Palestinians may try to leave Kuwait and Iraq and return to their homes in the territories due to the situation in the Gulf. Within the limits of security constraints, of course, Israel will allow foreign nationals to leave Jordan en route to their countries of residence over the Jordan River bridges. These remarks were made by Shmu'el Goren, coordinator of activities in the territories, during a tour of the Allenby Bridge this morning. Our correspondent Arye Gus joined him in the tour:

[Begin recording] [Gus] The volume of traffic over the Jordan River bridges this year is slowly reaching pre-intifadah levels, and if Palestinians begin streaming in from the Persian Gulf states back to their homes in the territories, the number will grow even higher. Shmu'el Goren says the Civil Administration will help them.

[Goren] We are not changing our procedures, particularly in anything pertaining to security. As far as we are concerned, security is a prerequisite we will not ignore. Nevertheless, we will definitely show consideration and award special treatment to people in trouble. We have stated as much, and we will keep our word. [passage omitted]

[Gus] Israel has already been approached by various countries to allow their citizens to cross the Jordan River bridges. Israel will help on this matter as well, Goren said. On the other hand, Israel will strictly ban the passage of goods from the territories to Iraq aimed at breaking the blockade.

[Goren] We have been meticulously controlling everything crossing the two bridges, particularly in the last few days. It is easy for us to control, and we know exactly what goes out. At this point there is no problem because we have no doubt whatsoever that no exports reach Iraq. The moment such a problem crops up, we will deal with it. It should be absolutely clear that we will not allow exports to Iraq. [end recording]

King To Tour North Africa for Talks on Gulf

NC2608112490 Paris AFP in English 1044 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] Amman, Aug 26 (AFP)—King Husayn was to leave Sunday on a four-day tour of North Africa for talks aimed at defusing the Gulf crisis, a Jordanian official said.

The king was to travel to Libya, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia and Mauritania, following brief visits Thursday to Yemen and Sudan, both allies of Iraq.

Sudan's leader General 'Umar al-Bashir arrived in Amman on Sunday en route to Baghdad. He was to meet King Husayn before the two leaders separately left the Jordanian capital.

Leaves for Libya

JN2608142990 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] As part of His Majesty King Husayn's continuing efforts to end the Arabian Gulf crisis peacefully and within an Arab context, his majesty left Amman this afternoon for the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, beginning a tour that includes a number of fraternal Arab countries. During this tour, his majesty will meet with his brothers, the leaders of these countries, and will discuss developments in the Arabian Gulf crisis and Arab efforts to achieve an Arab solution to this crisis that will avert the specter of a destructive war from the region.

Evacuation Efforts Continue After Border Reopened

JN2508070190 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 25 Aug 90 pp 1, 4

[Text] Amman—Jordan formally reopened its border with Iraq Friday [24 August] after streamlining the process of allowing foreigners to leave via the Kingdom amid prompt responses from governments and international organisations to appeals for help.

However, the 40-hour "formal closure" of the border point at al-Ruwayshid to clear up a massive backlog of evacuees from Kuwait and Iraq already in the Kingdom had very little practical impact on the human flow, according to officials and concerned diplomatic missions.

The European Communisty (EC) said in Brussels that Belgium was sending two military transport planes to Jordan to help airlift the evacuees, and the Netherlands and France contributed a total of $848,000 to add to an EC assistance of $1.3 million to the evacuation process. An EC spokesman also indicated that there would be additional contributions from various other members of the community.

The first Belgian C-130 military transport plane was due to arrive here Saturday and the second on Sunday. The aircraft will be used mostly to airlift Egyptians, who form the bulk of the evacuees.

Norway said it was earmarking $332,000 in emergency aid to the evacuation. Half of the amount will help the Red Cross bring food, medicine and water to the evacuees while the remainder will be used by the United Nations Disaster Relief Organisation (UNDRO) to buy Norwegian-made emergency rations.

UNDRO was sending two officials to Jordan to assess its needs and a planeload of 40 tonnes of blankets, food and water next week. In addition, the International Commission on Migration (ICM) was sending three experts to Jordan and Egypt. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said it was also ready to help the evacuation process.

The Belgian airlift is expected to start from Amman rather than anywhere near the border post because of poor landing and take-off conditions.

The Interior Ministry issued a statement Friday saying the border was reopened for crossing at 4 p.m. Friday, and that 20,000 people will be allowed in everyday. The border was closed Wednesday night after Jordan said it was facing enormous difficulties in handling the flow of foreigners leaving Kuwait and Iraq through its territory.

The ministry has formed several committees entrusted with the various aspects of dealing with the flow of evacuees, including border formalities, transportation, camping, health, etc.

Inquiries with diplomatic missions in Amman indicated that there was very little practical impact of the border closure since none of them reported any decline in the number of their nationals arriving in the capital Thursday and Friday; most of them arriving by buses and other vehicles sent to the border by the embassies and others traveling on their own.

"We did not really feel any change in the flow," said an official in charge of the evacuation process at an Asian embassy in Amman. "On Wednesday we had more than 1,300 arrivals, on Thursday it was 900, and today (Friday) the figure could be in the region of 1,200 to 1,300."

Officials explained that there were at least 18,000 people who were already gathered at al-Ruwayshid post when the Interior Ministry ordered the closure, and another 20,000 in the "no man's land" between Jordan and Iraq, an area of about 33 kilometres from al-Ruwayshid on the Jordanian side and Tirbil on the Iraqi side.

By early Friday, the 18,000 at al-Ruwayshid had completed their crossing formalities and the authorities started taking in the 20,000 from the no man's land, border officials said. "There is no way we can just abandon the people in the desert," said a border official. "The heat is overwhelming, water is virtually unavailable and to stay in the desert for even half an hour is killing," he said.

The process of clearing the 20,000 people was expected to be completed by Saturday, but it was not immediately known when the masses gathered on the Iraqi side at

Tirbil and al-Rutbah, estimated at anywhere between 70,000 to 110,000, would start flowing in.

In addition, about 180,000 to 200,000 people are estimated to be between the Iraqi town of Rumaylah and al-Rutbah, most of them Egyptian, according to several Third World nationals who passed through the area Thursday.

"The entire area is clogged," said Father Joshua John, a young priest from the South Indian state of Kerala who had just started a visit to Kuwait when Iraqi troops moved in and took over the country on Aug. 2. "There are thousands of vehicles, and masses of people, staying out in the open, all of them waiting for their turn."

Asked how he managed to cross along with another clergyman and two others, he said: "We had the advantage of having rented an Iraqi taxi and an Iraqi driver, who appeared to have been well connected."

A senior Interior Ministry official said the border authorities were being beefed up with additional staff to cope with the "human tide."

Meanwhile, most diplomatic mission said the mechanism of arranging homeward flights to the evacuees were more or less streamlined, and the process was being accelerated.

The Interior Ministry official said several governments had approached Jordan appealing against the closure order and offering reassurances that none of their nationals will stay back in Jordan beyond the maximum time required for processing their papers and taking a flight home.

"In fact, several missions also provided written statements of their arrangements for the evacuation of their nationals," the officials aid.

His Majesty King Husayn said Wednesday that only 67,000 of the 185,000 people who had crossed into Jordan by Wednesday evening had left the country, and that the bulk of those were Egyptian.

Reports from al-'Aqabah said Friday at least 25,000 Egyptians were clogging the port city awaiting transport for themselves and thousands of cars across the Red Sea to Nuwaybi' in the Sinai.

The Egyptian air force contributed to the evacuation by airlifting hundreds of Egyptians by C-130 Hercules planes from al-'Aqabah airport. The airlift started Thursday.

All Egyptians arriving at al-Ruwayshid were put on massive open trailers and driven to al-'Aqabah for the ferry trip or airlift, but there were hundreds who had either driven their cards direct to Amman or made their way on their own in buses to the capital.

A report from Damascus Friday said that Syria was willing to accept Egyptians across its border with Jordan and the evacuees could be ferried home from Syria's Mediterranean ports.

Efforts were also under way with Iran to open its border with Iraq to allow Pakistanis, Indians and Afghans to cross through its territory for an overland trip to the tip of the Indian subcontinent, diplomatic sources said. "It is not clear whether Iran might be willing to comply with the request," said an Asian diplomat.

In addition, India is hoping that Iraq would allow direct evacuation flights out of Baghdad or al-Basrah in southern Iraq, sources said.

Iraqi Airways maintained a regular daily Baghdad-Amman flight with about 200 passengers. Airport sources said the number of flights could be increased to two sometime this week.

Al-'Aqabah Officer on Handling of Gulf Arrivals

JN2408150390 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Our radio has followed the efforts being made by the competent authorities in al-'Aqabah and the al-Ruwayshid border post and asked al-'Aqabah District Officer Quftan al-Majali to provide details on these efforts and also on the number of arrivals and those who have already left. Al-Majali said:

[Begin recording] In implementation of instructions issued by His Majesty King Husayn asking us to facilitate travel for Jordan's guests coming from the Gulf states and departing through the land, sea, and air routes out of this hospitable country; as the largest number of those departing is in al-'Aqabah, where there are large numbers of Egyptian and other Arab arrivals who want to depart through al-'Aqabah to the Egyptian port of Nuwaybi'; and pursuant to the government's instructions issued by the Interior Ministry in this regard, an operations room has been set up in the al-'Aqabah district. The police, border, and aliens departments, as well as the al-'Aqabah municipality, the Port of al-'Aqabah Authority, the supply, health, customs, awqaf, water, and electricity departments and also the Central Bank in al-'Aqabah, not to mention the Civil Defense, work in this operations room.

With the participation of these departments, the following arrangements have been made: The al-Rabiyah suburb located at the northern gate of al-'Aqabah, 5 km from the city, was designated an assembly center for the brothers coming from the al-Ruwayshid border post, whether they are coming in buses or in their private cars, as this suburb is provided with the following services: hotel rooms totalling 3,000 beds, waiting lounges with a capacity for 3,000 passengers, parking lots with a capacity for 500 cars, a restaurant with a capacity for 1,500 people, a mosque, entertainment halls, such as a sports court, and health centers.

To facilitate travel procedures and to alleviate the discomfort of passengers, the following offices were opened in this suburb so that passengers might be ready to immediately board the ships anchored on the passenger

jetty, which is 15 km south of this suburb. The following centers are going [as heard] to open in this suburb: a police center, a passport office, a customs office, a health center provided with a physician, an ambulance, an office for the Egyptian Consulate in al-'Aqabah, a branch for the Jordan- Gulf Bank, international telecommunications services, and an office for the Arab [Maritime] Bridge Company to be tasked with issuing travel tickets. The al-Rabiyah suburb designated a major assembly center from which passengers ready for travel will be referred to the passenger jetty, has also been designated the area from which passengers will be sent to al-'Aqabah airport to be flown directly to Cairo. Al-'Aqabah-Cairo flights were initiated yesterday.

The police department will be charged with organizing the flow of convoys coming from al-Ruwayshid. These convoys will be assembled in the al-Quwayrah area. This department will then send the right number of arrivals to al-Rabiyah district. Afterward, the police department will use its various sections to send the convoys in an orderly manner to the passenger jetty in coordination with the Ports Authority and the border, aliens, and customs departments, as well as the al-'Aqabah Port Authority.

As a result of the immense efforts made by various agencies, including the police department, the Ports Authority, the border and aliens departments in al-'Aqabah, the al-'Aqabah customs office, the Arab Maritime Bridge Company, and the al-'Aqabah airport, the capacity for maritime and air travel has reached 13,000 passengers and 500 cars a day. The following is a breakdown of this endeavor:

The Arab Bridge Company which specializes in the maritime transport of passengers has put into service three ships operating between the ports of al-'Aqabah and Nuwaybi'. These three ships can carry 10,000 passengers and 450 cars a day. The company has hired the ship al-Tur to operate between the port of al-'Aqabah and Suez. Moreover, Egyptian authorities plan to have the Arab Maritime Bridge Company operate three additional ships between the ports of al- 'Aqabah and Suez. This would increase the daily transport capacity by 3,000 passengers and 300 cars a day. Thus, the transport capacity through the sea is expected to increase beginning next week to reach 13,000 passengers and 700 cars.

Air transport activities began yesterday, Wednesday 22 August. The air transport capacity is expected to reach 3,000 passengers a day. Thus, sea and air transport capacity will reach approximately 16,000 passengers and 700 cars a day beginning next week.

The Jordanian Government as well as charity organizations are distributing food among arrivals to al-Quwayrah, al-'Aqabah airport, and the port of al-'Aqabah. In addition, the water tankers belonging to the Water Authority are supplying these arrivals with their water requirements. From 1 August up to 21 August, a total of 70,000 passengers have departed, not to mention the thousands of cars, buses, and trucks transported. It is to be noted that transport capacity over the past few days has reached 10,000 passengers per day. We should not forget that the Jordanian Government has exempted brother Egyptians from paying the departure tax which amounts to 6 dinars per person because of the current circumstances.

As for the brother Sudanese who arrived in al-'Aqabah a week ago and remained there because of the failure of the ship assigned to transport them for reasons well known to all, they have been accomodated at the National Tourist Camp affiliated to the Port of al-'Aqabah Authority which can provide all required services. They number 1,300 and have some 3,00 private cars.

The Sudanese minister of state for expatriate affairs arrived in al-'Aqabah yesterday. Coordination was effected with him on procedures for the travel of Sudanese nationals through al-'Aqabah airport. Two civilian planes arrived there this morning. Some 400 passengers, most of whom were women and children, boarded the planes. Planes will continue to arrive from Sudan until all Sudanese nationals are transported. As for the cars belonging to the Sudanese passengers, these will be transported on ships after coordination between Sudan and private sector firms. [end recording]

UNRWA Helps Government With Iraq Evacuees

JN2608192890 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1440 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] Amman, 26 Aug (PETRA)—The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees [UNRWA] has provided help in the past few days to receive and accommodate around 305 UN employees and their families who arrived here in six groups from Iraq. It also made travel arrangements for them to their countries in cooperation with the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization [UNTSO] troops in Amman.

These employees work with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia [ESCWA] headquartered in Baghdad.

UNRWA also opened its Amman Training Center to host Filipinos awaiting transportation to their country. So far, 450 people have been provided with shelter.

In response to a request from the Jordanian Government through the Palestinian Affairs Department, UNRWA provided a medical team at a mini-health center to help provide medical services for the evacuees at the International Fair site.

UNRWA started setting up a camp today of 24 tents near the International Fair site to accommodate the evacuees and provide them with the necessary help.

UNRWA donated a convoy of four buses and three trucks to transport the evacuees from al-Ruwayshid to al-'Aqabah.

In addition, UNRWA continues its contacts with the concerned governmental authorities to provide humanitarian help in accordance with its available resources. UNRWA also offered to provide experts in environmental health.

Official on Services, Arrangements for Evacuees

JN2608150490 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] The committee tasked with caring for evacuees resumed its meetings today to continue government efforts to provide all the facilities and necessary measures to improve these evacuees' stay in Jordan.

Regarding these efforts, measures, and contacts made by the government, our correspondent Khalil al-Qaryuti met with Mr. Salamah Hammad, chairman of the committee and secretary general of the Ministry of Interior.

[Begin recording] [Al-Qaryuti] Could you please tell us, sir, what measures the committee is taking and what are the results of contacts held with some parties?

[Hammad] Before we discuss contacts with other parties, we should first talk about what the committee, which was formed upon notice from the prime minister, has already achieved in looking after the evacuees.

The committee has continued its meetings. Now, the affairs of all the evacuees coming to Jordan are under control. The numbers in Jordan have decreased. We now have about 35,000 travelers of various nationalities, most of whom are Asian nationals from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and various other nationalities. They are traveling through the airports and therefore, they must wait for transportation, i.e. aircraft to take them to their respective countries. We are continuing contacts with their embassies to arrange that.

The committee also established a plan for pitching camps to absorb the evacuees after the borders were reopened in the event the numbers exceed the set number for which arrangements have been made for transportation abroad. This is so we can provide them with lodging and a dignified stay until arrangements for their travel are made and while they wait for their aircraft.

The means of transportation are to a certain extent now available. The Jordanian Government has exerted great efforts in providing food, health care, water, and general services such as security and transportation. In addition, some organizations have been contacted. They have already started their activities.

Before I say more, I would like to thank every Jordanian citizen for the understanding, money, and services they have provided every evacuee with. The evacuees have felt a great sense of help from every citizen, whether in the rest houses, mosques, social welfare organizations, or even at homes. The Jordanian citizen has given all he can and even more than expected in the way of help for all the evacuees. Local societies, especially the Hashemite Charity Organization, took on a large number of the evacuees. It is currently caring for all those presently lodged at the International Fair site, over 10,000 of various nationalities. Other Jordanian charity organizations have also taken part in this charity work.

Contacts with the International Red Cross have taken place and they have promised to provide all the aid they can. Perhaps this afternoon we will receive the first batch. Yesterday evening we received the first shipment of aid from West Germany: about four and half tonnes of medical aid, 50 tents, and foodstuffs. We contacted most of the embassies wishing to give aid and local societies. We hope aid continues to set up these camps for which we have made arrangements in all the centers to secure means of transportation. I believe that we will be able to overcome the problem of providing the evacuees with services. [end recording]

Saudi Air Force Joins Jordan-Egypt Airlift

JN2608135990 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] Eleven aircraft belonging to EgyptAir, the Egyptian Air Force, and Sudan Airways left al-'Aqabah International Airport today carrying 1,415 travelers, Egyptian and Sudanese nationals who had arrived from Iraq. Airport sources said fewer departing passengers had arrived at the airport, which had led to delays of some flights. They also indicated that repatriating Egyptian nationals is taking place by way of an irregular airlift, which depends on the number of passengers who arrive in al-'Aqabah and wish to travel without their cars. Saudi Air Force planes are participating in the airlift.

A responsible source at the Civil Aviation Authority stated that the number of departures from Jordanian airports, both Arab and foreign nationals arriving from Iraq today, amounted to 12,000 travelers. There were 58 flights available. The process of evacuating Arab and foreign nationals by air continues in accordance with the schedules offered by the airlines.

Waldheim Arrives in Amman; Husayn Interviewed

JN2408175490 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Excerpts] His Excellency Austrian President Kurt Waldheim arrived in Amman this afternoon on an official visit to Jordan. [passage ommitted]

Our correspondent interviewed Dr. Waldheim.

[Begin recording in English] [Reporter] What is the purpose of your visit here today?

[Waldheim] Well, I first of all want to thank his majesty for his kindness in receiving me here in order to have talks with him and get better information on the situation in the area. We are deeply concerned about what is going on in Iraq and the military buildup. And I am, of course, very interested to hear the views of his majesty.

And as you know, I shall then go on to Baghdad in order to discuss the situation with President Saddam Husayn. There are these two aspects: the political situation, but also the humanitarian questions which we want to discuss with the president.

[Reporter] Do you believe .... [changes thought] What can Austria contribute to the diplomatic solution of this crisis?

[Waldheim] Well, as you know I have a certain experience in diplomatic negotiations since I was secretary general of the United Nations. And I also know President Saddam Husayn personally from those years and I hope that this will help us have a useful, constructive exchange of views in order to make my contribution to a peaceful solution of the problem.

[Reporter] Thank you very much sir.

[Waldheim] With pleasure. [end recording]

His Majesty King Husayn answered the questions of Austrian reporters at Amman airport before the arrival of the Austrian president.

[Begin recording in English] [First reporter, in progress] ... message for him on his way to Baghdad?

[Husayn] I am very happy that he has decided to come and I believe that we need more of this. We need people to look at both sides of the issue before forming their ideas and taking their stands.

[Second reporter] Do you think this mission of President Waldheim in Baghdad can be effective?

[Husayn] I am sure that he will be warmly welcomed and that his visit will be a positive development at this point in time.

[Second reporter] Is there any message you want to give him on his way to Saddam Husayn?

[Husayn] I would wish him success. And I'd certainly like to talk to him before I am able to say anything much. But I know that he is a man who has been involved in the international arena for a long period of time. He served the cause of peace when he was serving in the United Nations during some very very difficult years. And he is a friend, personal friend, as far as I am concerned and I am very happy indeed to have the chance to meet him and that he joins those of us who are trying to bring about some sanity in this world gone almost mad.

[Second reporter] What are your perspectives for a peaceful solution of the Gulf conflict?

[Husayn] I believe the chances are that although we have been blocked everytime we have tried, we are still continuing to try. And I believe that people now can probably begin to think of what the implications are of any further escalation. We have to stop the escalation on both sides and to try to see what we can do to defuse the situation.

[Second reporter] So you are optimistic?

[Husayn] I am optimistic. I'll always be optimistic.

[Reporters] Thank you very much. [end recording]

Talks With King, Lauds Efforts

JN2408194490 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] His majesty the king and Austrian President Dr. Kurt Waldheim, who began a visit to Jordan today, headed a session of talks at al-Nadwah Palace this evening.

The two leaders exchanged views on the Gulf crisis and ways to contain it. His majesty reviewed the dimensions of the problem and the grave escalation in the Gulf region that would lead to a destructive explosion. His majesty said Jordan is trying to stop this escalation and is making every possible effort in this direction. His majesty said such efforts should be undertaken by all peace-loving people.

The Jordanian and Austrian sides stressed the need for moves at this stage. The Austrian president paid tribute to efforts his majesty made before and after the crisis at both the Arab and international levels, with the aim of containing the crisis as a step to defuse it and prevent devastation which would go beyond the region.

The talks were attended on the Jordanian side by the crown prince, the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Court, and his majesty's political adviser. On the Austrian side, the talks were attended by the Austrian foreign minister and ambassador and Dr. Waldheim's adviser.

His majesty hosted a dinner banquet tonight in honor of the Austrian president and his delegation.

Leaves for Baghdad

JN2508112990 Amman Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] Austrian President Kurt Waldheim left Amman for Baghdad today for talks with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn on the latest developments in the Gulf crisis.

During his stay in Jordan, the Austrian president held talks with his majesty the king and exchanged views on the Gulf crisis. His majesty the king and the Austrian president stressed the need to de-escalate the situation and to achieve a lasting settlement to the crisis.

Returns With 91 Austrians

JN2608041790 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] His Excellency President Kurt Waldheim of Austria arrived in Amman today following a brief visit to the Iraqi Republic. Upon arrival in Amman, Mr. Waldheim said President Saddam Husayn emphasized to him Iraq is ready to explore all possible avenues to a diplomatic solution to the Gulf crisis. On hand to welcome him at the airport were His Highness Crown Prince Hasan and senior officials.

Meanwhile, 91 Austrian nationals who made up the Austrian community in Iraq returned with Mr. Waldheim and have since traveled on to their country.

'Arafat Arrives in Amman, Confers With King

JN2508105590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1042 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] Amman, 25 Aug (INA)—Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, arrived here a short time ago. Immediately following his arrival, President 'Arafat held talks with His Majesty King Husayn on the developments of the Gulf crisis and the Palestinian-Yemeni plan to resolve the crisis within the Arab framework.

It has been learned from informed sources that King Husayn briefed 'Arafat on the results of his talks with Waldheim, Bush, the Yemeni president, and the Sudanese leader.

Political Adviser Arrives

JN2708075090 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 27 Aug 90 p 1

[Text] Amman—AL-DUSTUR—Hani al-Hasan, Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, has arrived in Amman within the framework of the Arab move to find a political solution to the Arabian Gulf crisis.

Turkish Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks 25 Aug

JN2508205490 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] Turkish Foreign Minister Dr. Ali Bozer arrived in Amman this evening on a two-day visit to Jordan. In a statement to the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY, the Turkish minister said he was happy to be visiting Jordan and have the opportunity to exchange views with Jordanian officials. He said: I will be honored to meet with His Majesty King Husayn.

He also expressed the hope that he will have the opportunity to assess, along with Jordanian officials, the situation resulting from the events in the region, particularly in the Gulf.

Talks With King

JN2608141090 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received Turkish Foreign Minister Ali Bozer at al-Nadwah Palace this afternoon. During the meeting, his majesty emphasized the Arab efforts to contain the Gulf crisis and his majesty's endeavors, along with some of his brother Arab leaders, to defuse this crisis and reach an Arab solution that would prevent an explosion.

The Turkish minister said the purpose of his visit to Jordan was to express Turkey's desire for a dialogue on the Gulf crisis. Such a dialogue with all sides concerned will resolve the crisis and spare the region and the world all the grave consequences of an explosion.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, his majesty's political adviser, the Turkish Foreign Ministry under secretary, the director of the Middle East Department at the Turkish Foreign Ministry, and the Turkish ambassador in Amman.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan also received Ali Bozer at the Royal Hashemite Court this afternoon. They exchanged views on the Gulf crisis and the need to avoid war and to take the issue back to its essential components. The meeting was attended by the information minister.

Departs 26 Aug

JN2608182590 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] Turkish Foreign Minister Ali Bozer left Amman this evening after a visit to Jordan during which he met with His Majesty King Husayn, His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, and ranking Jordanian officials. During these meetings they exchanged viewpoints on the Gulf crisis, the necessity of averting war, and the need to return the question to its original components.

Government Orders Embassy Closure in Kuwait

JN2408175190 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1741 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] Excuse me gentlemen, I have just received the following: The JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY has learned that, in accordance with the request of the military authorities in Iraq, the Jordanian Government has instructed the Jordanian ambassador in Kuwait to close the embassy there and to convey this decision to the Iraqi military authority in Kuwait.

IRNA Reports Release of Hostage Brian Keenan

LD2408185590 Tehran IRNA in English 1842 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] Beirut, Aug. 24. IRNA—Irish hostage Brian Keenan has just been set free in Lebanon.

Well informed sources told IRNA in Beirut that Keenan was freed at 21.00 hrs local time.

Islamic Dawn Claims Responsibility

LD2408213390 Tehran IRNA in English 2106 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] Beirut, Aug 24, IRNA—The Irish consul in Beirut tonight confirmed to IRNA the release of Brian Keenan and said the released Irishman was on his way to Damascus, Syria.

Speaking to IRNA, the Irish official expressed his joy at the happy end to the ordeal of Keenan, and hoped that Lebanese and non-Lebanese hostages in Israeli dungeons would also be freed soon.

A group calling itself Islamic Fajr (Dawn) in Beirut in a two-sentence statement earlier said it had released Brian Keenan who was kidnapped more than four years ago in West Beirut where he was working as an English teacher.

The Irish consul described Keenan's release as a "great event," and hoped all the Lebanese and non-Lebanese hostages in Lebanon and the occupied Palestine would see freedom soon.

No group had claimed responsibility for the kidnapping of Keenan ever since he was taken hostage.

Army Command Confirms Release

NC2408200090 Paris AFP in English 1955 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Excerpt] Beirut, Aug 24 (AFP)—An underground organization here announced the liberation of Brian Keenan on Friday, a teacher with dual Irish-British nationality held hostage in Lebanon for more than four years.

The Syrian army command in mainly Muslim west Beirut confirmed the release to Ireland's honorary consul, Khalid al-Da'uq, a reliable source said, adding that Syrian military intelligence officers were escorting Mr. Keenan to Damascus.

The Islamic Dawn Organisation, in a brief communique delivered to Al-Nahar newspaper, said it had freed Mr. Keenan at 9:00 p.m. (2100 GMT) [time as received], as reported earlier by the official Iranian news agency IRNA in a dispatch from Beirut. [passage omitted]

Syrian Military Delegation Arrives in Beirut

NC2708061190 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] According to the newspaper AL-DIYAR, a high-ranking Syrian delegation led by Brigadier General [title as heard] Sa'id Bayraqdar and including Brig. Gen. Ghazi Kan'an and other senior officers in the Syrian Army has arrived in Beirut for talks with Gen. Emile Lahhud and senior officers under his command.

The visit is taking place in accordance with the recent summit between President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. Following this meeting, Gen. Lahhud visited Syria where agreement was reached on coordinating matters through committees with the aim of taking concrete measures in accordance with the al-Ta'if agreement. Syrian forces are to help the Lebanese Army in undertaking these measures, according to AL-DIYAR.

[Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic at 0430 GMT on 27 August adds that "political circles have expressed interest in the arrival of a Syrian military command delegation comprising Major Gen Sa'id Bayraqdar, Brig. Gen. Ghazi Kan'an, and Brig. Gen. 'Ali Hammud, and its meetings with the president of the republic, the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, the prime minister, and Minister Nabih Birri. It has been reported in this connection that Brig. Gen. Kan'an will soon meet with the Iranian ambassador in Damascus and that the discussion will deal with the situation in Iqlim al-Tuffah and putting an end to the continuing war there."]

Embassy Staff Summoned From Kuwait

NC2508114890 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] Lebanon has summoned the staff of the Lebanese Embassy in Kuwait for consultation. No statement has been issued on the fate of embassy premises there.

Iraq Reportedly Detains Ambassador, Diplomats

NC2708111790 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] According to reports at noon today, the Iraqi forces have detained Lebanese Ambassador to Kuwait 'Adnan Badra and 12 other Lebanese diplomats.

Ambassador Salah Sutaytiyah, acting Foreign Ministry secretary general, said that he cannot confirm that the Lebaneseambassador to Kuwait has been detained by the Iraqi authorities. He added that he had been informed that Ambassador Badra has been in Baghdad since Saturday, noting that the Foreign Ministry is trying to contact the Lebanese Embassy in Baghdad to obtain further clarification.

Ambassador Sutaytiyah said that Ambassador Badra had informed the Foreign Ministry that he was leaving Kuwait last Thursday via Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and Syria. We were surprised to hear that he is in Baghdad, he said.

Amal Group Attacks Israeli Militia Patrol

NC2508111590 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] In the resisting south, a resistance group from the Amal Movement detonated an explosive charge as a joint Israeli-Lahdist patrol was passing on the Bra'shit-Bayt Yahun road at 0230 today. Following the blast, a 10-minute clash ensued between the group and the patrol personnel. Using rockets and machine guns, the group managed to destroy an armored car, killing or wounding its passengers.

Egyptians in Jordan To Be Tranferred to Syria

JN2408115790 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] Damascus—An official source has stated that following contacts between the Syrian and Egyptian Governments it has been decided that Egyptian nationals returning from Iraq and Kuwait via Jordan will be transferred to Syria. The necessary measures have been taken to move the Egyptian nationals to the Syrian ports in order to transfer them to Egypt by sea.

Government To Pay Expenses

JN2408144690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1415 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] Damascus—The Syrian Government has taken all the necessary measures and made the necessary preparations to welcome the Egyptian brothers returning from Iraq and Kuwait via Jordan. They will be transported by sea from the port of Tartus to the Arab Republic of Egypt.

A ministerial committee has been formed to implement all measures that might help secure the stay and travel of the Egyptian brothers with all possible facilities and comfort.

It has been decided to make the Egyptian brothers' lodgings, food, medical requirements, transportation, and other necessities during their stay in Syria free of charge at the expense of the Syrian Government.

Turkish Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks

JN2408160090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] Damascus—Turkish Foreign Minister Ali Bozer arrived in Damascus this afternoon on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. On hand to receive him at Damascus International Airport was Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', the heads of the West Europe and Protocol Departments at the Foreign Ministry, the Turkish ambassador in Damascus, and embassy staff.

Mr. Bozer explained in a statement to the SANA correspondent that the objective of his visit to Damascus is to hold talks with Syrian officials regarding the situation in the Gulf.

Confers With Al-Shar'

JN2508120290 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1015 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Turkish Foreign Minister Dr. Ali Bozer today. The meeting was attended on the Syrian side by Yusuf Shakkur, assistant foreign minister, and Muhammad Khadir, director of the West European Department, and on the Trukish side by (Husayn Shaylam), assistant secretary general of the Turkish Foreign Ministry, and the Turkish ambassador in Damascus.

They exchanged views on the Gulf developments.

Meets With Al-Asad

JN2508143190 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1415 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Turkish Foreign Minister Ali Bozer and his delegation at 1330 today. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the Turkish ambassador in Damascus.

The Turkish minister conveyed a message to the president from Turkish President Turgut Ozal. President al-Asad handed him an answer. Talks centered on the situation in the Gulf.

Makes Statement, Departs

JN2508183190 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1750 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] Damascus, 25 Aug (SANA)—Turkish Foreign Minister Ali Bozer left Damascus this evening after a one-day visit to the Syrian Arab Republic.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', the chief of Protocol at the Foreign Ministry, the Turkish ambassador in Damascus, and the embassy staff were at Damascus International Airport to see him off.

Mr. Bozer said in a statement to the SANA correspondent: I was granted the honor during this visit of meeting President Hafiz al-Asad and I conveyed to him Turkey's point of view regarding the crisis in the Gulf.

I also held talks with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. Our viewpoints during these talks are almost in agreement [kamilah].

He said: One of the points we agreed upon is the need for complete implementation of the economic boycott imposed on Iraq. Concluding his statement, Mr. Bozer again said he was happy with his talks with Mr. al-Shar' and expressed interest in meeting him again before the end of the year.

Irish Foreign Minister To Receive Hostage

JN2508151290 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1415 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Excerpt] Irish Foreign Minister Gerard Collins arrived in Damascus this afternoon to receive Irish hostage Brian Keenan. On hand to receive Collins at Damascus International Airport was Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs.

Mr. Collins told the SANA correspondent that he was happy to be in Syria. He said: We are very grateful to Syria for its efforts in securing the release of Irish hostage Brian Keenan. [passage omitted]

Meets With Al-Shar', Receives Keenan

JN2508155490 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Excerpt] Damascus—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Irish Foreign Minister Gerard Collins this afternoon. During the meeting hostage Brian Keenan was handed over to the Irish foreign minister in the presence of the hostage's two sisters and the Irish ambassador in Damascus.

The Irish foreign minister expressed deep gratitude to Syria for all its efforts to get Mr. Keenan and other hostages released.

For his part, Mr. Keenan said he was very happy to have recovered his freedom. He thanked the Syrian authorities that helped toward his release. [passage omitted]

Britons, Australian Flee Iraq; Seek Refuge

JN2508160590 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] In Damascus, the SANA correspondent has learned that seven foreigners today sought refuge in Syria coming from Iraq. Six of them carry British passports and one carries an Australian passport. The Syrian border authorities welcomed and assisted them.

Available information says that they will be transported to the capital, Damascus, at a later time today.

The people with British passports are: (Kenneth Reddy), (Fred Tamind), (Martin Wont), (Kevin Hoyer), (Maurice Helly), (Ronnie Onks); the Australian is (Robert Snack).

Handed Over to Australian Envoy

JN2608052090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] Damascus—Early today the eight foreigners who sought refuge in Syria yesterday after coming from Iraq were handed over to the Australian ambassador, who is also the head of the British Interests Section to the Syrian Arab Republic, in the presence of Information Minister Muhammad Salman.

The eight—seven Britons and an Australian—expressed happiness over their safety and presence on Syrian soil. They answered questions posed by reporters affirming that the competent authorities provided them with the proper facilities once they entered Syrian territory.

In a related development, Information Minister Muhammad Salman welcomed them and congratulated them on their safe arrival. He then answered questions posed by Arab and foreign reporters who crowded the premises of the Ministry of Information.

In reply to a question on why Syria opened its borders with Iraq to foreigners despite the fact that these borders were closed, the minister said: Syria believes that the Iraqi people and foreigners residing in Iraq are facing an ordeal. To help save the lives of foreigners and alleviate their ordeal, instructions were given to all border authorities to receive any foreigner who might come to Syria.

The minister added: Accordingly, Syria will accept any foreigner or Arab coming from Iraq who seeks refuge in Syria at this point in time. Replying to another question on whether this step would be a prelude to the reestablishment of diplomatic ties with Britain, the minister said: The problem here is a humanitarian one. It has nothing to do with protocol. Had it been a protocol situation, we would have asked all those foreigners to obtain entry visas before allowing them to enter the Syrian borders. He added: We received them regardless of the absence of this formal relationship. We congratulate them on their personal safety. We will not ponder about the reaction of the British Government, and particularly Mrs. Thatcher, to this matter.

Concluding his statement, the minister affirmed: We believe that this is a humanitarian move aimed to to save lives.

Irish, UK, U.S. Reactions to Hostage Release

JN2508140790 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] The Irish Government has voiced deep appreciation of the efforts Syria and Iran made to secure the release of the Irish hostage in Lebanon, Brian Keenan. REUTER cites a government statement as saying: The Irish Government is grateful to those who released Keenan.

The British Foreign Office received the report on Brian Keenan's release yesterday with joy and praised the role played by Syria and Iran in his release. AFP cites a Foreign Office spokesman as saying: We were pleased with the release of hostage Brian Keenan. The spokesman praised the role played by Syria and Iran in the hostage release and expressed the hope that Syria and Iran will help secure the release of other hostages.

A senior U.S. State Department official has said the United States is happy because Irish hostage Brian Keenan has regained his freedom after four years in captivity. He said: We are very happy about his release.

Khaddam Receives Lebanon's Al-Husayni

JN2608123390 Damascus SANA in English 1830 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] Damascus Aug. 25 SANA—Vice-President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received here today the speaker of the Lebanese Parliament, Mr. Husayn al-Husayni.

Talks in the meeting dealt with the situation on the Lebanese arena and the next steps that would bring stability into Lebanon.

Bangladesh

Troops Mobilize To Join Forces in Saudi Arabia

BK2608053690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0433 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] Dhaka, Aug 26 (AFP)—Bangladesh has started mobilising troops it has agreed to send to Saudi Arabia for its defense against any Iraqi attack, defence sources said here Sunday. At least one brigade, which has usually between 4,000 and 5,000 troops, was being prepared, the sources said, adding that some equipment could also be flown with the soldiers to the kingdom.

The Bangladesh Parliament at a special day-long session Saturday unanimously approved a resolution to send the troops, agreed by President Hussain Mohammad Ershad after a request from King Fahd. Mr. Ershad called the special session Tuesday to discuss the Middle East crisis.

Observers here said that, with the parliament's approval, the government has overcome the problem of sending a token defence force about which authorities have given no details so far. The opposition had accused the government of violating a constitutional clause which says it cannot declare or become involved in any war without parliamentary approval.

Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud, justifying the president's decision, told the Parliament that the Constitution had not been violated since no declaration of war had yet been made in the Gulf. Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed said Saturday that the decision to deploy soldiers would help protect the overall interests of the Islamic world.

Dhaka has condemned Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait and subsequent annexation and has backed United Nations Security Council resolutions on mandatory sanctions and the unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi troops. Bangladesh also joined other countries in refusing to close its embassy in Kuwait by the Friday deadline set by Baghdad.

Foreign Minister Plans Visit to Gulf States

BK2608165990 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud will visit several Gulf countries shortly to discuss the situation in the region including safety and repatriation of Bangladeshis there. A Foreign Ministry spokesman stated this in Dhaka today. The spokesman said 443 Bangladeshis taken to Baghdad from Kuwait by Iraqi authorities will be brought to Amman to bring them back home soon. Meanwhile, 298 Bangladeshi nationals have returned home today from Amman by Bangladesh Biman chartered flight while 4,500 Bangladeshis are now waiting there.

Meanwhile, the Emergency Management Committee met in Dhaka with its chairman Vice President Moudud Ahmed in the chair. The meeting took stock of the latest situation in the Middle East and reviewed overall economic position of the country. It observed that at present the country has no [words indistinct]. But they are [words indistinct] economic and political situation. The meeting also reviewed the progress of implementation of the earlier decisions of the government for austerity and to bring back Bangladeshis stranded in Saudi Arabia and Jordan coming from Kuwait and Iraq.

Spokesman Views Return of Nationals From Gulf

BK2408163590 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] A foreign office spokesman said in Dhaka today Bangladesh has agreed to Iraq's request to bring back 443 Bangladeshi nationals who were taken to Baghdad from Kuwait in the wake of Iraqi invasion of that country. He said these people are expected to be airlifted soon from Amman. Bangladesh earlier requested Iraq for the release of the people and consular facilities to its embassy in Baghdad to establish contacts with them. But Iraq refused and asked to take them back. The government also sought clarification as to why these are being sent back and what will happen to their jobs, bank accounts, belongings, and families in Kuwait. But Iraq insisted for their return to Bangladesh. The spokesman said 1,000 Bangladeshis have reached the border of Turkey and the government has requested that country to give them necessary facilities to return home. Some Bangladeshis have also reached Tehran through the Basra-Abadan route and the government has requested Iran for all help to them.

1,000 Bangladeshis, who are presently waiting in Jordan for repatriation to home on a chartered flight of Bangladesh Biman will leave Amman tomorrow carrying the first batch of them. A consular from Bangladesh embassy in Abu Dhabi has been dispatched to Amman to further speed up the arrangements for repatriation of the Bangladeshis from Jordan.

20 Injured When Police Break Up Student Protest

BK2608041290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1953 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] Dhaka, Aug 25 (AFP)—At least 20 people were injured Saturday when police used batons to disperse opposition activists staging an anti-government protest here, witnesses said. Police went into action after members of the Jatiyatabadi Chatra Dal (JCD) started stoning passing vehicles as they marched through the busy Purana Paltan area after a protest rally, the witnesses said. One government-owned bus was set ablaze and the windshields of at least two other vehicles were damaged, they said.

The JCD, the student wing of Begum Khaleda Zia's opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party, claimed two of their members were arrested and 20 people injured, but police said they did not yet have full reports. The group, which dominates the volatile Dhaka University's students union, announced Saturday's protest rally on

August 18 as part of its move to revamp a campaign against the government of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad.

The Dhaka University Central Students Union has also called a students convention for September 16 to finalise a common strategy to gear up the anti-Ershad campaign. The opposition has been campaigning to oust Mr. Ershad's eight-year-old government, demanding that he resign and hold free and fair elections under a neutral caretaker government, a proposal the former general has shunned.

India

Iran Approached To Help Evacuate Nationals

BK2408161590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] India is approaching Iran to help evacuate Indians stranded in Kuwait. This was announced by the external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, in the Lok Sabha today. He said if Iran agrees to give permission it would be much easier for India to air lift Indian nationals from its airports and seaports. In a brief intervention during a special discussion on the Gulf situation. Mr. Gujral said the closure of the Indian Embassy in Kuwait could not be helped under the circumstances and the embassy diplomats and staff are being shifted to Basra. He said the embassy of Kuwait in India will continue to function.

The minister also announced that the ex-gratia grant for two Indian nationals killed in Kuwait has been increased to 100,000 rupees from 25,000 rupees. The persons killed in the cross-fire on the second of this month are Mr. Sunny John and Mr Hassan, both from Kerala. Mr. Gujral said India will be starting two flights a day to evacuate stranded Indian nationals. He said the oil minister of Kuwait is coming to New Delhi in the next two or three days for discussion on the implications of the Gulf crisis.

New Delhi has allayed fears that the closure of the Indian Embassy in Kuwait would hamper the efforts to look after the interest of Indians there. Answering queries by newsmen in New Delhi this evening, the spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said that the consulate general's office in Basra, which is only a couple of hours drive from Kuwait, is being strengthened to deal with the problem.

375 Indians Return From Amman 25 Aug

BK2508161190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] Another batch of 375 Indians from Amman reached Bombay this morning by a special Air India flight. With this, the total number of Indians airlifted from Amman have reached 3,925. In addition to this, Air India has brought home several hundred Indians from various other Gulf destinations—Riyadh, Bahrain, Oman, Dhahran, and Dubayy. Air India is also operating a special flight in the Bombay-Dhahran-Trivandrum-Bombay route today.

Program To Evacuate Nationals From Gulf Detailed

BK2708030890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] A massive program has been drawn up to evacuate Indian nationals who want to return from Kuwait and Iraq. A large number of them is expected to reach Iran in the next few weeks. Arrangements are being made to send them to Dubayy by ship from the Iranian port of Bandar Khomeyni. Air India will operate special flights to bring them from Dubayy to Bombay. The Indian community and the Indian Consulate in Dubayy have finalized arrangements to provide transport, food, and shelter, to such Indians.

Our Gulf correspondent, Avinash Goel, reports that the government of Dubayy Emirate has decided to allow these Indians to stay in transit and an Indian Air Force Il-76 transport plane is arriving in Baghdad to evacuate some Indians from Iraq.

Minister Criticizes U.S. Deployment in Gulf

BK2508111090 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] The union minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Harikishore Singh, has accused the U.S.A. of violating the United Nations Charter by deploying its forces in Saudi Arabia and described the step as counterproductive. Speaking to newsmen in Patna, he said we are against any coercive measure against Iraq. He said the west Asian problem could best be solved through negotiations and dialogue under the UN auspices. Mr. Singh said this did not mean that India had acquiesced in the annexation of Kuwait by Iraq. Mr. Harikishore Singh said we are in principle opposed to the idea of annexation of any sovereign country by another.

Mirage Jet Deal Reported With Australia

BK2508123690 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] Australia has sold 50 Mirage fighter jets to Pakistan for 36 million Australian dollars. A PTI [PRESS TRUST OF INDIA] report says that the first batch of 48 Mirage jets are on their way by trailer from Woomera in South Australia to (Warhala), a port at the tip of South Australia's Spencer Gulf. The entire shipment will leave for Pakistan at the end of October to provide a backup for Pakistan's Air Force.

Teams To Visit USSR, Saudi Arabia To Seek Oil

BK2508095490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] The government is sending official-level delegations to the Soviet Union and Saudi Arabia soon to negotiate for

additional supplies of crude oil. The petroleum minister, Mr. M.S. Gurupadaswamy, in an interview to PTI [PRESS TRUST OF INDIA] said that positive indications have been received from the two countries.

Expressing serious concern over the oil blockade in Assam, he described it as unfortunate as it has come at a time when the country is facing a difficult situation on the oil front following the Gulf crisis. Mr. Gurupadaswamy said he has written to the Assam chief minister to take up the matter with the AASU [All Assam Students Union] and he has also appealed to the AASU to withdraw the agitation in the national interest.

Protocol Signed With USSR on Oil Exploration

BK2708081590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] India and the Soviet Union have agreed to cooperate in the field of oil industry. A protocol signed recently provides for a detailed program of work in the integrated exploration projects in the North Cambay and Cauvery basins. The petroleum and chemicals minister, Mr. M.S. Gurupadaswamy, informed the Rajya Sabha that in the North Cambay basin over 3,000-km line of seismic survey has been completed. He said in the Cauvery basin 20 exploratory wells are to be drilled in the first phase. The minister said the India-Soviet protocol also provides for speeding up of data acquisition under the intensive integrated exploration project for the West Bengal basin.

Assam Students Suspend Oil Blockade Program

BK2708092290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] In Assam, the All Assam Students Union—AASU—temporarily suspended its program of oil blockade from midday today. The AASU president and general secretary told our Guwahati correspondent about this decision this morning. They said the decision was taken in view of the chief minister, Mr. P.K. Mahanta's assurance to them that the Assam accord will be implemented effectively. No additional crude will be pumped out of the state and there will be no construction of loop pipelines.

The AASU launched the oil blockade from the 15th of this month.

Delhi Television Reports Search in Golden Temple

BK2508121690 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] In Punjab, police searched some rooms in the Guru Ram Das Sarai [dormitory] located in the Golden Temple complex in Amritsar last night [23 August]. The chief of the Amritsar police district, Mr. Sanjiv Gupta, said that the search was conducted to check whether suspected persons are staying there. He added that no arrests were made. SGPC [Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak—Sikh temple management—Committee] officials however said three persons were taken away from one of the rooms.

Agitation Against Reservation Policy Continues

Elsewhere in Country

BK2508125590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] Students in Delhi continued their antireservation demonstrations today. Commuters in the city faced problems in reaching their destinations as the demonstrators erected roadblocks and deflated tires of buses in various parts of the city. Reports of antireservation demonstrations have also come in from several other parts of the country.

Security in Delhi Tightened

BK2708035590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] Elaborate security arrangements have been made in view of the call for a Delhi bundh [strike] today by the anti-reservation agitationists led by a newly formed students organization Equality Front. Police sources said special security would be provided to vital installations. Police, however, would also be deployed in sufficient number in all areas. Official sources said in New Delhi that all schools run by the Delhi administration will be open today. The Delhi Transport Corporation will also operate its normal bus services. Special forces will be deployed at vulnerable points to avoid traffic jams. The Equality Front has decided to exempt essential services from the bundh. These include Delhi Transport Corporation, hospitals, the Delhi electric supply undertaking, water and milk supplies and chemists shops.

An AIR [All India Radio] correspondent who went around some parts of the capital this morning reports that buses and other vehicles are plying normally. School children are seen going to their schools. Shops and stalls, which open early in the morning, were functioning as usual.

Meanwhile, the anti-Mandal Commission Forum which is agitating against the new reservation [of jobs policy of government] has dissociated itself from the bundh and urged traders not to shut down their shops. In a statement, the forum said the call for the bundh has been given by some vested interests aiming to gain political mileage. It also took strong exception to using school children for blocking roads, getting shops closed, and collecting funds. At its central committee meeting in New Delhi yesterday, the Forum decided to suspend all rallies, processions, and demonstrations for four days. It condemned the police action on agitating students on Friday [24 August].

Eight student and youth organizations belonging to the Left parties have appealed to the agitating students not to get divided along caste lines and restore normalcy to resolve the

Mandal Commission issue [recommending 27 percent reservation of jobs for backward classes] amicably. In a statement, they requested the prime minister to open a dialogue with students and youths and demanded an economic criteria to qualify reservation for backward classes. The Delhi Adhaypak Parishad [Teachers Council] has appealed to the students to maintain peace and not disturb normal life. It called upon the government to talk to the student leaders on the issue.

The Youth Action Committee, a youth organization protesting against the implementation of the Mandal Commission report, has demanded that the reservations be provided on the income basis and not on caste basis. In a letter to the prime minister, the committee demanded that one person in which a family whose income is not more than a 1,000 rupees should be given a job.

Life Disrupted in Delhi

BK2708090290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] The bundh [strike] by antireservation agitationists disrupted life in Delhi today, almost paralyzing the bus services. Private vehicles are however plying. Shops and business establishments have closed in many areas. Our correspondent who went round the city today say that the demonstrators blocked traffic at various points causing inconvenience to commuters, especially office-goers. They also hijacked and damaged a number of buses. Several schools remained closed and the Delhi Administration schools which opened this morning reported thin attendance. Essential services, including health, water, and electricity have not been affected. Bank offices are open.

According to police, the situation is peaceful with no reports of untoward incidents so far. Train services from Delhi on various routes are also affected. The police had made elaborate security arrangements to check any violence. A group of demonstrators who were trying to approach the All India Radio and Doordarshan [television] complex were dispersed by the police. Interstate bus services after 0700 this morning have been affected. Students held demonstrations at several places protesting against the reservation of 27 percent of jobs for the socially and economically backward classes.

Premier Proposes Additional Job Reservation

BK2708093290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] The prime minister today announced in Parliament that the proposal for reservation of five to 10 percent of government posts will be entirely on the basis of economic criteria, irrespective of social groups. Making an identical statement in both the Houses today, Mr. V.P. Singh, however made it clear that it is not possible to dilute the 27 percent reservation for the socially and educationally backward classes and 22.5 percent for Scheduled Castes and Tribes. He said reservation for the poor will be made after taking the views of members of parliament. He said the government has taken a number of decisions to provide justice to the Schedules Castes and Tribes, women, the minorities, laborers and other weaker sections. The government's decision on the Mandal Commission report [on backward classes] has been taken after persistent demands in both houses for its implementation.

The prime minister also referred to the commitment of the National Front to enshrine the right to work as a fundamental right in the Constitution and said the government will introduce a constitutional amendment bill during the current session of parliament after interacting with political parties. He also referred to the government's proposal to establish a national youth council to ensure the involvement of youth in the building of the nation and to focus on the problems of the youth. He said the inflow of resources for various youth programs has already been decided to be increased to 265 crore rupees from the existing 20 crore rupees. The resources are mainly to be utilized for self-employment, higher studies and involvement of youth in literacy programs. Mr. V.P. Singh expressed the hope that all sections of the people will fully cooperate in the fulfillment of social and constitutional obligations and the country's march toward social justice.

Earlier, in the Lok Sabha, some Congress-I and BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] members questioned the propriety of the government making the announcement of about additional reservation on the economic basis and said it should not have been made outside parliament when it is in session. The prime minister explained it was only a proposal and not a policy decision. A BJP member referred to the call for the Delhi bundh [strike] today by students and suggested that the government should have talks with the student representatives on the subject. He also suggested that a consensus should be evolved in consultations with all political parties.

A Congress-I member expressed doubts whether reservation on an economic basis would be valid under the Constitution which has no such provision.

Iran

President Gives Friday Prayers Sermon 24 Aug

LD2408195890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1130 GMT 24 Aug 90

[First Friday prayers sermon by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in Tehran on 24 August—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] Because there are many current issues, this week we will not have our weekly serial discussion about Islamic life; the two sermons will be devoted to two topical issues. [passage omitted]

The first part of my speech will be by way of a report on government performance, on the occasion of Government Week, and in the second sermon I will talk about victory and the return of our released pows and the current, important issues in our region. [passage omitted]

I will speak very briefly and in general terms about the government's performance; during the week each minister will report to you through the media about his own department. On the whole we are satisfied with the result of our work and our plan from the beginning up to now which is almost a year. We think that the country's management is on the right reconstruction track within the framework of the five year plan and under the instructions and general policies stemming from the laws of jurisprudence, and the leadership and the officials are performing their duties.

At the beginning of our work, programs were planned and decisions made according to the particular situation which existed in the country. During the first few days some people expressed their doubts toward them; but thank God, as we progress we feel more confident about the correctness and expediency of the methods we chose.

First of all, our work is done according to plans and those plans depend on the reconstruction policies which were drawn up last year by the Supreme Council of Reconstruction appointed by his eminence the imam of ummah, and those policies were signed by the great leader of the time, his eminence the imam of ummah. They were also published. Therefore, the policies of the work being implemented today were drawn up by the imam of ummah and supervising those policies is the work of the honorable leader [Khamene'i]. Its executive framework is formed by government bills and the approval of the Islamic Majles. [passage omitted]

In various sections of our responsibilities we have chosen methods and systems to deal with executive affairs which have shown good results. That is the case in foreign policy, in cultural policy, in economic policy, and also in other sections.

In the case of cultural issues, God be praised, cultural issues are showing progress both in quality and quantity. The number of students is increasing and the quality of educational texts and the living conditions of the universities' scientific cadres are making progress. God willing, you will be further informed by the officials. Of course, in educational facilities we have shortages which are mainly shortages of construction materials and educational space which we intend to rectify.

In foreign policy, God be praised, today your country and the Islamic Republic system has the initiative in the region and in the world wherever it concerns them. In fact, we move in such a way that we are never forced to act subjectively, to depend on other's conditions, to take advantage of the situation and those kind of things which can be very damaging to foreign policy. Those actions do not compose our foreign policy today. One of the fruits of that foreign policy is what we see today, these great developments in our relations with the countries of the region, and though we cannot ascribe all of the achieved victories to our foreign policy, we know perfectly well that it has had a fundamental role in their creation. Of course, it is too early yet to explain some points relating to those issues. They will be explained when the time is ripe. Of course, I will explain the causes which have contributed to those victories in my second sermon and there I will mention its main elements.

On security and social issues some works have been implemented which show progress, and God willing we will see their results in the future. In particular, with the creation of an atmosphere of peace, we hope that our nation will be better able to observe those results. Those works included the campaign against problems, insurgencies, narcotics, immorality, and wrong-doings which more or less exist in society.

On the economic front, which was and still is the most difficult part of our government's life, the government has made extensive efforts which I will mention in very general terms.

Last year, when executive responsibility was handed to the present government, I explained for you some of the problems in one of my Friday prayer sermons. Of course, we faced those problems and conditions because of the war and the situation of the revolution and they are no one's fault. Even the previous government did a lot and then handed the situation, at it was, to the new government. In all conditions we thank and praise the work of those who were involved in the executive affairs and these remarks do not mean that they worked badly. The conditions were quite different then. The reconstruction policies and a major part of the five year plan were prepared during the previous government and before we become involved and that shows that this a cohesive current.

The main problem of our economy was in the national gross product. Production was in a very unsatisfactory condition due to the war and lack of investment and employment of the manpower. Production was decreasing. That is what shows a society's poverty or richness, if gross national product is more and if a society produces as much as its population needs or more, then that is a healthy society. If production is less than consumption the society is poor. The society becomes poorer as it produces less. Now, if at the same time the distribution of goods is unreasonable, that is, if this little production is not distributed justly—some people take more, some take less—then the level of poverty will increase dramatically among those sections of society which take less. We were placed in those conditions. In my remarks I will mention figures pertaining to production. When less is produced the government budget is affected as a result. That is, government spends some cash on people's expenses, at the time when a budget for the war had been imposed, and no money comes back from the people. [sentence as heard] The government spends but no money is recovered. If we produce and sell our products to people, then all we have

spent will come back through our production. This, then, becomes a healthy economic current. If there is no production, however, we spend money and it does not come back. Then large amounts of money in people's hands is a worse calamity. It is a catastrophe. All the money is poured into the market, wanting to buy goods, and as there is no production no goods exist for the cash. Therefore traders increase their prices. [passage omitted]

As a result, government will face a deficit which is a disaster for any nation. Then that leads to inflation, as I explained about the high prices. High prices are caused by a deficit and a deficit is caused by low level of production and that leads to general poverty. To stop this general poverty, the previous government was forced to introduce a calming agent which is still employed and that is subsidy. [passage omitted]

We thought the best and the most appropriate place to start our work was to approach production, first of all, to collect capital from anywhere we can in order to start production so that the gross production rises, to retrieve from people the cash flow—a very dangerous and satanic lever capable of destroying the system. We have the means amd methods of doing it because the Iranian Government and the Iranian nation is rich. We are not poor like some countries that have no resources. Our capital was employed badly. We came and separated a section of the government's budget and applied it both as a lever to boost production and to collect the cash flow. We said we will sell foreign currency at a higher price, but give the factories as much as they need. We made provisions for factories. We made provisions for the production and agricultural sections. We put at their disposal as much foreign currency as they needed, but at a price somewhat higher than that of seven tumans [to the dollar] which is giving it away almost free. That led to a large part of the cash flow being removed from the people. It is a high figure. Now we have managed to collect over 200 billion tumans from the people. That means almost the government's total income during the past few years from oil and tax and monopolies and all sources that we made our income from. We managed to strengthen our production system to a level that now all of the country's production units are making good volumes of production. [passage omitted]

This is just the beginning of our task. It took us some time to provide these factories with liquid assets. They did not enjoy liquidity before—a factor which would have enabled them to purchase foreign exchange. Having purchased the foreign exchange, they had to wait a long time for their goods to enter the country, and now we are faced with the problem of transporting them from the ports to the factories.

Our growth is achieved through resolving these issues. In my view, we are facing the direction of growth, and if the factories reach their optimal point, then we could change our gross national product in a way which would absorb the excess liquidity among the people. The economy will be a healthy one once we reach that point. Of course, some of them are dependent on external factors but with the aid of our secondary and mother industries comprising steel, petrochemicals, and other units, their dependence will wither away.

Regarding the outcome of this production, the plan to absorb the excess liquidity and the sale of foreign exchange, I will cite a few pecuniary instances. This is what our budget deficit has been like since the year '65 [corresponding to 1986-87]—which is being regulated this year: In the year '65 our deficit amounted to 1,449.05 billion rials, that is, around 150 billion tomans. In the year '66 our deficit amounted to 1,375 billion rials. In the year '67 it increased to 2,24,000 billion rials, which means we had a deficit of around 200 billion tomans in the year '67.

This trend continued until the second half of the year '68, and from the moment we made foreign exchange available, we began to absorb excess liquidity, hence the deficit began to diminish in the last six months of the year, decreasing to 1,137.08 billion rials. In other words, in those four years, we saw the lowest figure last year. This year, the situation has vastly improved; in other words, in the first four months of the year to this date, we have had a deficit of 250 billion rials, and if we follow the same pattern, it will reach 770 billion rials. I predict an even lower figure, because the coming months are more promising than the current ones. Therefore, you can see how the deficit has been reduced to 34 pecent in comparison with the first four months of last year. This figure is very promising since it is a figure which forms the basis [of economic growth].

The excess liquidity among the people, which, as I mentioned before, is a very dangerous factor, was 23 percent in the year '67. In other words, we had placed too much cash in the hands of the people. In the year '68, the 23 percent was altered to 19 percent, thanks to our absorbance of some of this excess liquidity in the second half of '68, in other words, notwithstanding the growth, the figure was only 19 percent. Had we not done so the figure would have been 30 percent. We still have excess liquidity, but this year it has been much less, the figure for which I shall not have until the end of the year.

This reduction in liquidity is due to the government's reducing budget deficit, since normally we had to counterbalance the government's budget deficit by printing bank notes or by giving back to the people their own money. Printing bank notes is a dangerous course of action which is prevalent in unhealthy economies. In the past few years we printed bank notes as follows: the printing of bank notes is a natural course of action, in the sense that each year bank notes are printed to the level of inflation, and there is no problem in that. However, when inflation increases and the liquidity rises, the government's budget deficit increases, thus forcing them to constantly print bank notes. That is a terrifying phenomenon—In the year '65 we printed bank notes amounting to 466,01 billion rials; In the year '66, the figure suddenly rose to 613 billion rials. Last year, due to

the excess flow of liquidity absorbed from the people, the need was suddenly diminished, and the figure of printed bank notes was reduced to 233 billion rials. In other words, a reduction by less than one-third. This was a great success achieved in the last five-six months of the year. This year so far we have printed no bank notes, and we hope to carry on in this way until the end of the year, which is a trend only followed by the healthiest of the world economies, who so rapidly manage to curb the printing of bank notes.

The rate of inflation, as I said, has been harnassed and not totally removed; the prices of a number of goods have risen, some have been frozen, and some have been lowered. When we take all of them into account, we notice that our inflation rate in the year '65 was 23.7 percent. The Central Bank has a basket of goods which is used as the criterion—one of the goods in that basket may have risen in price by 100 percent, another one by 5 percent, and another one by none—they take into account the total amount in that basket before reaching this figure. In the year '66 the inflation rate was 27.7 percent which is a high figure. In the year '67 it was 28.89 percent—nearly 29 percent—and in the year '68 it was 17.45 percent—in other words around 11-12 percent lower than last year. It still means an increase of 17 percent in the people's demand for goods and that does not mean any fall in the prices of those goods.

We are not claiming that everything has come down; it has been brought under control and the rate of the increase of inflation has been reduced to some extent. And we continue to try to bring it down. This year, of course, we are in a much better situation. Although the Central Bank has not yet released the figure, we have the monthly figures, but I will not go over that now.

That is the general trend of economic movement which is definitely improving; especially as a result of recent circumstances, our foreign exchange holdings are also improving and that can move us forward.

We have two or three serious economic problems and I am asking you to listen and to help us to whatever extent you can. One strange problem is transport. At present, many goods, things needed by the people are in factories, in ports, in farm warehouses, but we do not have the facilities for transporting them to the consumer market. Several of our cement factories have production problems now because the warehouses are full and the factories cannot work; we relieved some of them by asking people to come and just take it away themselves even though we are short of cement and there is a rationing system. We relieved them; places such as Urumiyeh and some other places—and Tehran to some extent; people have to take some in order to make room in the warehouses.

As I said, we have bought about 400,000 tonnes of wheat from farms and it is piling up there. But when we want to take it to the silos, we have transportation propblems; we cannot do it. You heard about the Farzin glass factory. At the same time of the earthquake, about 100 million tomans or more of its glass broke in the earthquake. We pursued the matter as a [contractual] offence.

Our final conclusion was that transport was not able to deliver the glass. The receipts had been issued and people were expecting the glass. They were unable to deliver it from the factory to the towns and places which they were meant to. Of course, the excuse of transport was that they had not received tires on time. And the excuse for the tires was that they did not have the foreign exchange to buy the tires. At the end of the day, it was a question of a shortage of production. We had not delivered the tires on time so all our glass broke in that way.

Right now, about one-and-a-half million tonnes of goods is stuck in ships in our ports and transport has problems in servicing them. One of the important things which we want to do in the second half of the year is to improve transportation. Of course, here, too, the Majles must help us as well as the people. Those who have some resources should not be cautious, should not put things away. Some people work less because they are worried that they might wear down tires saying, life will go on somehow. They should not do that. We intend to import tires and parts to the extent of our needs and we will do that in the second half of the year.

Let anyone who has a truck—security and military organizations, government organs, every one—let them put them into use and let them enter into the field. Let them not put away parts in warehouses. Let them give them to the people and do what is necessasry to bring some movement into our transportation network. And that is what we are doing. We have given permits for the import of 5,000 trucks, that is, in addition to the 7,000 or so trucks which we are manufacturing ourselves this year. And we are doing other such things.

Our other problem is the problem of construction material. Construction material for the [five-year] plan has not been foreseen in the plan. In other words, the credit allocated in the plan for construction material is much less than is required by the plan itself and by the work underway by the people. The policy of the government is now this: to make construction material plentiful. We are hoping, with the help of the Majles and with the foreign exchange which we have now obtained, to provide as much iron and cement in the next six months as the people—of course we need transportation. [sentence as heard] If we provide it, but there is no transportation it will stay in the ports again. We must advance the two things together; if construction material and transportation improve, our economic movement will suddenly undergo a substantial growth; production will increase; that will affect liquidity; it will affect the budget deficit; it will affect inflation. And let me tell you, as a servant in this system, that all the countries which went through war resolved the problems in their economy after the war through surgery. They suddenly devalued their national currencies; they did away with subsidies; they inflicted hardship and intense work on their people, until they produced some movement. However, we are moving to a

slow beat so as not to inflict a shock on people's lives and so that we might continue on that way—and we hope you know that.

Another sector is adminstrative reform; that is another one of our problems. We have started a big task with our administrative offices. We have laid the groundwork but it has not yet come to fruition. God willing, during this five-year plan we will be able to undertake proper administrative reforms so that administrative offices, too, will confront issues in a revolutionary and active manner. [passage omitted]

Second Friday Prayers Sermon

LD2408164590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1130 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Second Friday prayers sermon by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in Tehran on 24 August—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] There are two or three related issues which, God willing, we can mention in a condensed sermon: First, those very same victories which our ummah is experiencing with its entire existence; something which we had been wishing for 10 years and which God, with kindness and compassion, has granted to our selfless Islamic ummah today. God be praised, the state of neither war, nor peace is coming to an end. The enemy has left our territory and our freed ones are rapidly entering the country and returning to their families' embrace. And our conditions in the resolution have been accepted. The other side has accepted the 1975 Algiers Accord, which was the reason for its war. They withdrew something for which they inflicted a great many difficulties on the two nations for eight years. They have given to us, after about eight or nine years, exactly what we are demanding and they would not give us at the time of the recapture of Khorramshahr. Of course, it is God who has granted it to us.

That is the fact of the matter. If, after Khorramshahr, after the recapture of Khorramshahr, that had been accepted; that is, if they had withdrawn from our territory and accepted the 1975 Accord and if they had agreed that our other differences should be put to arbitration, then we would definitely have ended the war on that day. But they never did that. Of course, some people may say: yes, they did; after the recapture of Khorramshahr, they announced: we are leaving. But that was not the case. They did withdraw from the Khorramshahr area, up to Basra and so on; but from there northwards they did not leave. When we later recaptured all those places, we did so through war. And in the end we were not able to recapture all of it. They stayed in Mehran, Naft-e Shahr, Khosravi, Qasr-e Shirin; they stayed in the area south of that region, in Musiyan and so on. We took parts of it little by little and other parts remained [in Iraqi hands] until the end.

Therefore, the strategic heights of the region between us and Iraq, which are very important from the military point of view and which belong to us, were taken by them and they did not return them and had no intention of doing so. The same applied in the Kurdistan area and northwards; they were in our territory in some areas. And they were not accepting the 1975 accord. But at any rate, they did accept. We do not want to reprimand the Iraqis at the moment. We must continue to have a positive attitude toward the matter. In any case, they have accepted it today and a difficulty which may still have created a problem for the two nations has been removed for the time being.

On the sides, those who were involved in this matter are completely stunned. They see that they are caught on the wrong side of the door. People who gave arms and money, people who made propaganda, people who gave their ports—there was talk everywhere that the Shatt al-'Arab belongs to the Arabs and that is how it must be; now, they see that the main actor, the one who was actually making the claim, has given it up. [sentence as heard]

Now, they are making the claims on his behalf; they are saying, why did you drag us into the war for eight years and then just leave us high and dry. And that is exactly the way it is. They are so stunned, they do not know what to say. The foreigners and Westerners, especially, are very upset because they felt that this bleeding wound and sore spot would remain in the region and that they could always exert influence on us and implement their policies by means of this war and this feud. It has really created a problem for them. But so what? What do we care?

As to what the factors behind this victory are, there are many; I do not want to go into the factors behind victory now. It is certainly not the case that we can claim that it was our active and clever diplomacy which brought the matter to this point. If that was a factor at all, it was as the last element in a series of hundreds of elements. The most fundamental is that you people, this ummah, under the leadership of His Eminence the Imam, demonstrated such resistance in the course of these 10 years, persisting in its wishes and just demands in such a way that, like great mountain cliffs, the greatest mountains of the world, it was immovable throughout all the storms. [crowd chants in support]

Our combatants, the Guards Corps, the Mobilization force, the law and order forces, the gendarmerie, the police, and the committee, the people and their jihad, were remarkable in their struggles in the arenas. Never before had the world seen a country resisting the entire satans in the world—The East and the West, the reactionaries and the Zionists, with all their money, weaponry, propaganda machinery, ports, transport, and intelligence on the one side, and this nation and innocent ummah and other side—notwithstanding the fact that they had been besieged, boycotted, had their wealth confiscated, and barred from collecting the spare parts that they had already paid for. Such resistance has had no precedent in history and will have no match in the future, either. [passage omitted]

Today our POW's are returning to their homeland, as steady as the heights of Damavand and Alvand, raising our morale. They all played a part; we, too, for our part carried out our responsibility in managing the negotiations, deliberations, and covert diplomacy which is one of the significant pillars of the foreign policy.

Praise be to God, today we feel victorious indeed, in the sense that we harbor no doubts what so ever concerning the materialization of the divine promises. Some may believe that it would have been better had we crushed the enemy on the battlefield. I cannot say whether that would have been any better, or any worse: It was but God's will. Perhaps if that had happened a whole chain of different consequences would have arisen, the analysis of which is possible. Today, this victory has been attained under circumstances from which the Islamic Republic can reap major economic and political benefits. I am not sure if they would hold in the latter circumstance. That, however, is another issue. In any case this existing circumstance is indeed a reward bestowed by the Almighty for the tolerance and steadfastness of this nation and our combatants. [crowd chants in support: God is Great, Khomyeni is the Imam, Death to America, Death to England, Death to the Mojahedin, Death to Israel]

This is mirrored in this divine Koranic verse: "One who claims justice, struggles to realize that claim" [previous sentence in Arabic] God willing, we will bear and take full advantage of this victory, and not change our course in the future. [passage omitted]

The third issue, a very important issue which is related to our discussion, is the problem of the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait and also the presence of foreign forces in the region. Well, the world knows our stance. You, too, know what we have said; we have all said that in principle we have adopted our stance based on our Islamic and Koranic inspirations. Islamic teachings have been the basis of our decisions. Therefore, aggression against Kuwait cannot be acceptable to us on any account. True, we had opposing views with the heads of that country: True, during the war they helped our enemy and did injustices to us. That must be kept in its own proper place; that is a separate issue. However, under no circumstances can we accept the people of Kuwait and an independent country being the victim of aggression and assault. Even if they had some differences between them they should have gone to international forums or regional assemblies.

Therefore, from the very first moment we took the lead. When other countries—Kuwait's partners in the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council—could not muster enough courage even to broadcast the news of the attack from their radio stations, we condemned this. Indeed our condemnation astounded all of them; they were wondering how we supported Kuwait who had so mistreated us. But we support what is right irrespective of individuals concerned.

Iraq must definitely pull out of Kuwait. Its move cannot be tolerated whatsoever. We shall not consent to the disruption of the regional conditions even though they, the Arabs, might eventually consent to it. We are the principle partner in the Persian Gulf; therefore, we cannot accept such a major change in the coastline of the Persian Gulf. The Iraqis must definitely pull out.

All right, they have now made peace with us; so they have, but that is a separate issue. The peace issue is a separate one—we will go on to the final stage with the Iraqis; we shall establish good-neighborly relations with them and the two nations will cooperate. But that is a different matter, and Iraq must evacuate.

One bad consequence of that aggression is what you see—our region has been swarmed by foreign forces. We cannot say that these forces have come to the region motivated by good intentions. Of course, one effect of it might be that of preventing aggression. Here, we have no objection to their hindering the aggression; anybody can help in any way. However, it would have been better if the regional countries could do this.

We could do it; Turkey, Syria, Egypt and Saudi Arabia itself could do it. All of us together could have done it. Of course, at the time the conditions were not right; we did not have any correct relationship with each other. Yet, given a better relationship among us we could obstruct the aggression. Well, the conditions were not right.

However, why such a massive force? Obviously they are not here with good intentions. Most certainly neither are they concerned about the people of Kuwait, nor are they concerned about the rulers of Kuwait. Even if they might be concerned about the Kuwaiti rulers it is because they believe they cannot find anybody more obedient. In any case, they have not come here to see that right is done.

Of course, the United Nations did well; so did the Security Council which acted in time. We accept them both; we shall abide by the decision adopted by the Security Council—a correct and timely decision. It would have been better if regarding Grenada, Panama, and Afghanistan such decisions were also adopted. But for some reason they pick on this side when they have a problem. We disregard such an attitude. We are concerned with the decision which we respect and with which we shall cooperate. But the presence of the foreigners in the region might well have undue long-term consequences for the region.

Therefore, we warn that once the calamity is over, when Iraq sees the light of wisdom—whether it pulls out itself voluntarily or is forced to pull out of Kuwait—then these forces have no place to remain in the region. Then they have no business here; they must leave the affairs of the region to the people of the region and return home to their own homes.

We had on one previous occasion witnessed such a case. It could have been foreseen that if Kuwait were occupied they would come. Do you remember, during the last

stages of the war, when Iraq made the Persian Gulf unsafe for us? On account of the fact that Kuwait was a source of nourishment to the Iraqi war effort, we hit Kuwait with several missiles. And we harrassed its ships. No sooner had we turned against Kuwait than the Americans, the English, and all other satanic forces arrived in the region and stood against us. The same number of ships and navies came; they even entered into war with us. They shot down our passenger liner; they hit our oil platforms. Since they dared not set foot in our territory they decided to harrass us there. It could have been foreseen that any aggression on Kuwait would bring about such a development.

In any case, due to an incorrect decision an unhappy situation has been created in the region. Our policy now is to settle the issue in such a way as to forestall the possibility of a war breaking out; because it is not known what will befall the region if a war breaks out. The region looks like a podwer keg; if issues are to be settled by mortars and bullets it means the interrruption of the flow of many of the oil supplies; it means fuel and economic crisis. Many other things can happen which affects the lives of the peoples of the world. It is a very sensitive issue. Therefore, we will make our best efforts.

Meanwhile, on account of the whole thing which happened many facts were also revealed and I will refer to four or five of them summarily. One fact which is revealed is this: that the Iraqis, who were opposing us, are expansionists—they are not content with what is theirs. Against their partners of yesterday they commit aggression today.

Second, it was revealed that the regional countries are deeply dependent on the arrogance; and the arrogance supports them in such a fashion. This, of course, is due to the importance of the regional conditions. When we were the target of aggression they did not shed even one single tear. They rejoiced at our difficulties. Now you see what has happened. It was revealed that the Persian Gulf is a very sensitive region. Once again the world has realized it. This is a region where wise and moderate persons must keep issues under control and prevent it being turned into a center of crisis. It is a region which can create problems; these facts must be considered.

Next, the most important issue which was revealed was the fact that the Islamic Republic is steadfast, solid, and justice-seeking. These were the facts they would never talk about. But now everybody is admitting that we achieved our rights. Now everybody says that it is clear who was the aggressor and who was the victim. A nation was defending its own rights for 10 years all alone by itself and yet it was accused of being fundamentalist and adventurist and so forth. Our self-control was also revealed. Many thought that now that Iraq is weak the Islamic Republic might want to take revenge. But it was revealed that once our rights are given to us we do not want anything more; indeed, we showed that we are flexible in our policy. As a whole the facts were well exposed; today the world judges us more correctly. The world public opinion has come to learn of many realities which used to be hidden from it. We hope all that will lead to the benefit of Islam and the region.

President Terms Foreign Presence 'Regrettable'

LD2608113390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Excerpts] On the fourth day of government week, deputies of the country's ministries and executive organs met President Hashemi-Rafsanjani this morning. [passage omitted]

Reviewing the present Persian Gulf situation, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Today the Islamic revolution is at a very fateful stage from the viewpoint of the world, our people, and the regional countries. Today God has demonstrated his fairness and is rewarding our nation for its 10-year toils.

In the recent events those who committed aggression against Islam, the Islamic revolution, and history are fighting each other. The constraints put on us by our enemies are being removed one after the other and are being placed on themselves. World arrogance has fallen into a whirlpool; the uncontrollable phenomenon which it armed has now turned on it.

Considering all this, over the past 10 years, despite extremely sensitive conditions, the Islamic Republic of Iran has proved that it is not an adventurer. During the war Iran maintained the security of the Strait of Hormuz, and refrained from attacking cities and deploying chemical weapons. Under the most difficult conditions, this regime has proved that it follows its proclaimed logical principles. Hence, fair-minded people of the world consider the Islamic revolution to be respectable and regard it as a stable axis for resolving the world's current problems.

He added: Iraq's aggression has created an adverse situation in the region. The extensive and audacious presence of arrogant forces, under the pretext of repelling aggression, is very hard to swallow and regrettable for the Muslim world. If those forces intend to remain in the region to preserve their vital interests, that would not be acceptable at all; it would cause so much hatred and agitation among Muslim peoples, the consequences of which would be destructive for arrogant interests. [passage omitted]

During the meeting, while introducing the visitors, First Vice President Habibi referred to the favorable Iranian situation in the region. He said: The supporters and the opposition have been forced to acknowledge Iraq's acceptance of the 1975 accord, withdrawal from the occupied territories, the return of the released POW's to their Islamic homeland, and the successes achieved by the government over the past year. [passage omitted]

Security Council Meets Under Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD2508174590 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] The National Security Council met this evening under the chairmanship of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and in the presence of all its members, political advisers, and high-ranking military commanders. The deteriorating situation in the Persian Gulf region was assessed, and our country's grave responsibility at this sensitive juncture, and the means of safeguarding the national interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran were discussed. Appropriate decisions were made.

Velayati Interviewed on Gulf Crisis

LD2508012090 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1632 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Excerpts] We have invited Dr. Velayati [to the studio] in order to learn his views about current developments. Dr. Velayati, thank you for coming to this program. For my first question, can I ask you for your assessement of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and the current crisis in the Persian Gulf?

[Velayati] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Greetings to the honorable viewers. I have to say that, unfortunately, in today's world, as a result of the things which the superpowers and hegemony-seeking powers have done in the world, historical grounds have been created in order to justify aggression; they have created a particular manner of behavior on the international scene. What happened in Grenada and Panama were distinct and recent examples of such aggression. Unfortunately, the people who control the world's media tried to justify them. That fact may have caused errors to be made by some in the Third World who think that they can satisfy their greed and to justify it subsequently in terms of their so-called power. That is one of the causes of the invasion of Kuwait.

Another reason is the claim which the Iraqis have made before on parts or all of Kuwait; they have made two different claims at different times. The assistance which these same countries—now the victim of aggression or threatened by aggression—gave to Iraq throughout its imposed war against Iran itself gave rise to that idea in the region and it prepared the elements for this aggression. In fact, he who dug the well now finds himself at the bottom of it.

But, at any rate, aggression must be condemned from our point of view; regardless of who the aggressor is and which country is the subject of aggression, even when the country being invaded has been unkind toward us and even when the aggressor country has possibly been kind and friendly toward us. This is based on the fact that the Islamic Republic of Iran follows principles which cannot be changed on the basis of circumstances. In any case, what has occurred in the region is unfortunate and it disturbs the strategic balance and equilibrium of this sensitive region; something which is not to anyone's advantage and which is certainly not acceptable to us either. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] Mr. Minister, in view of recent developments in the region, the Islamic Republic of Iran has gained a special position. All the engaged parties visit our country or make contact [with us]. What do these parties specifically expect from Iran, and what is the Islamic Republic of Iran's view on these expectations?

[Velayati] It is just as you say. That is, in recent days, in other words, after the occupation of Kuwait by Iraq, the attention of the world and regional countries was drawn to the Islamic Republic of Iran even more than before. Many admitted explicitly and many said implicitly that we overlooked the role of the Islamic Republic of Iran in maintaining a reasonable balance in the region and we are now more aware than before of that fundamental role. The geographic and political situation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the very good capabilities of our country and our nation, large territory, large population, ideological solidarity, the strong and very serious obedience to the Islamic Republic of Iran's leadership, the steadfastness which the Islamic Republic of Iran has shown in the nearly twelve years which have passed since the Islamic revolution toward the realization and fulfillment of its rights, the insistence of the government and the nation of the Islamic Republic on the principles's stipulated by the founder of the Islamic Republic which are now being precisely followed by the eminent leader [Khamene'i]—these are the factors which helped place the Islamic Republic of Iran in an excellent position today.

These are the factors which have helped to place the Islamic Republic of Iran in an excellent position in the world. The conduct of the officials of the Islamic Republic is a factor which has been manifest to both friend and foe. Today, the world is aware that it can count on the Islamic Republic of Iran in the sense that this country and this government is moving within the framework of certain principles, even though those principles may not be desired by a number of governments, or by some governments. In any case, it is predictable and they can count on it.

This fact can be very helpful in the sense that various countries in the world, specifically the regional countries, can count on their negotiations and deliberations with the Islamic Republic. Our adherence to our declared principles—whether in theory or in practice—is very important to the world. We said, from the outset of the revolution that we are neither prepared to accept aggression, nor are we prepared to commit aggression against another country. For many years, our officials raised their voices around the world saying that an act of aggression has been committed against Iran and that the aggressor should be punished. Today, following the recent events in our region, a number of those who for years sealed their lips, adopting silence, confessed that it was Iran which had been violated, and many of them declared that they had committed an injustice against Iran.

Please take note that we have said that since we are against aggression—even though this aggression was committed by Iraq against Kuwait—we condemn this aggression and this invasion. We consider the basic solution to be the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces to behind the internationally recognized border, in other words, to their previous position before the start of the aggression.

On the other hand, we should not compare one wrong action with another. To invite the foreign presence in this region is not a correct action; this is something which we condemn. A view which has been confirmed by the Islamic Republic of Iran in practice through its viewpoints and actions throughout this period, is that security in this region should be established by the inhabitants of this region. Our negotiations with the Arab states in the Persian Gulf, as well as Syria, Pakistan, and Turkey indicate that in practice we adhere to the view that the security of the region should be established through the cooperation and coordination of the regional countries. In any case, we are in an excellent postion. In other words, at present the Islamic Republic enjoys an all-round excellent position.

On the other hand, our region is faced with a sensitive and exceptional situation. Consequently, under such circumstances, it is of utmost political significance and relevance to our national security that those whose voices carry weight in the country should act with caution, diplomacy, expediency, proper judgement, and without haste in their adoption of stands. In addition, there should be a lack of diversity in their stands. Any untimely remark or any unwarranted action may be detrimental for us. Therefore, as in the past, all of us—whether the people or the officials, who are in any case not unrelated to each other, since the officials are also selected from among the people—should stand behind the leadership in unity, at his eminence's command with greater fastidiousness and diligence. There is no other way than that for the preservation of Islamic values and national interests.

[Announcer] Thank you very much, Mr. Velayati for taking part in the weekly report program. We wish you success.

Reza'i Views 'Grave Threat' of U.S. 'Aggression'

LD2508091490 Tehran IRNA in English 0754 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] Ilam, Aug. 25, IRNA—Commander-in-Chief of the Islamic revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) Mohsen Reza'i inspecting the Iraqi-evacuated areas in this western province on Friday strongly criticized the U.S. aggression on the holy land of Mecca.

Reza'i who was speaking in the inauguration ceremony of an IRGC base in Mehran which was evacuated by the Iraqi forces earlier in the week, added that the move poses a grave threat on Islam and Muslims. "We must maintain our readiness in this connection," he stressed.

The IRGC commander further said that the U.S. with its presence in the region has consolidated its domination and hold over the oil resources.

Reza'i left the area after inspecting the military forces stationed in the western part of the country following withdrawal of the Iraqi forces.

Iraq started evacuating the Iranian territories including Mehran on August 17 following its acceptance of Iran's terms for peace on August 15.

Commentary Views UN Security Council Decision

LD2508124790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1103 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Good day, dear listeners. The UN Security Council, in its sixth resolution which it has approved following the current crisis in Kuwait, has given permission to the UN member-states to adopt measures, provided conditions so require, to halt merchant ships to inspect their cargo and to ensure themselves about the destinations of the ships. [passage omitted]

It was the U.S. Government's success to obtain the the USSR and China's agreement to that resolution which finally paved the way for its approval. [passage omitted]

Now that the Western countries, especially the U.S. Government, have managed, by winning the USSR and China's approval, to acquire the necessary legal sanction for their possible military action against Iraq in the Persian Gulf or international waterways, it is possible for Iraq to face really serious problems in the future.

The UN Security Council's speedy action and decisiveness during the current crisis had been such that one may well ask why the Security Council does not act in the same way with regard to other issues. Already, numerous resolutions have been approved by the council on major world issues, including Israel's aggressions against the rights of the Palestinians and the Muslim people of the region, which have not been implemented.

Yet, aggression is aggression in any case; and it is condemned in view of international law. How good it would have been if the Security Council had confronted the Israeli aggressions in the same way as it confronted the Iraqi aggression against the Kuwaiti territory; how good it would have been if the Security Council had adopted real measures to implement those of its previous resolutions which for many years have been covered with dust.

The Persian gulf crisis proved that once the interests of the superpowers so desire, the UN Security Council can adopt serious and practical decisions which would be very effective in settling the crisis.

U.S. Request To Fight Iraq Reportedly Refused

NC2608172490 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] The Iranian newspaper KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL today revealed that the United States, through a third unidentified party, had tried to involve Iran, Turkey, and Pakistan in fighting Iraq.

According to the paper, the Islamic Republic of Iran turned down this request.

Borders Open to Foreigners From Iraq, Kuwait

LD2508124890 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1116 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug 25 (TANJUG)—Tehran will allow all foreign citizens who are now in Iraq and Kuwait to transit Iranian territory on their way home, an Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman told TANJUG's correspondent today. "It is a humanitarian question, and of course it also covers U.S. citizens," the spokesman said.

Tehran and Washington broke off diplomatic relations ten years ago, soon after the victory of the Islamic revolution. It has been learned from foreign diplomatic circles that the Philippines, Thailand and South Korea were the first to approach Tehran with a request for transit right. The TEHRAN TIMES daily urged Iraq today to free all foreigners, "in order to show its good will."

Philippine's Manglapus Meets Petroleum Minister

Requests Increase in Oil

LD2508182890 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] Philippine Foreign Minister Raul Manglapus met Petroleum Minister Aqazadeh-Koh'i this evening. Referring to the sensitive situation in the Persian Gulf and the termination of oil exports from Iraq and Kuwait, which once provided 25 percent of the Philippines' oil needs, he asked for an increase in the oil purchased from Iran.

The petroleum minister expressed in the meeting his agreement in principle with an increase in Iranian oil exports to the Philippines from 20,000 to 40,000 barrels. The foreign minister of the Philippines also met this evening Mr Kamili, minister of labor and social affairs.

Discusses Transit With President

LD2608165390 Tehran IRNA in English 1436 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 26, IRNA—Iran today agreed to provide transit facilities through its southern borders for foreign nationals stranded in Iraq and Kuwait. President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in a meeting with Philippines Foreign Minister Raul Manglapus said Sunday "Iran is ready to provide transit facilities for the Filipinos if Iraq agrees (to their departure)."

Manglapus who arrived in Tehran Saturday submitted a message from President Mrs. Corazon Aquino to President Rafsanjani. Earlier today, Manglapus met his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati and sought Iran's help in transferring Filipinos stranded in Kuwait and Iraq.

Velayati said "Iran is ready provide transit facilities for foreigners in Kuwait and Iraq." The two also discussed Tehran-Manila relations and other issues of mutual interest.

Manglapus also met Commerce Minister 'Abdol Hoseyn Vahaji this afternoon, and discussed the use of skilled Filipino manpower in Iran's development projects.

The Philippines official's talks with Labour and Social Affairs Minister Hoseyn Kamali also centred on the same topic yesterday, with the latter assuring that Iran would study the issue.

On Saturday, Manglapus also met Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh and asked Iran to double its oil exports to Phillipines in the wake of the Persian Gulf crisis.

Aqazadeh agreed to raise Iranian crude supplies to Philippines.

Velayati Allows Foreigners Transit From Iraq

LD2608115190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] The foreign minister of the Philippines, Oman's ambassador to Tehran, and the UN Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group [UNIIMOG] commander held separate meetings with Mr. Velayati, our country's foreign minister, this morning.

Mr. Raul Manglapus, foreign minister of the Philippines expressed at the meeting his satisfaction at his talks with the Islamic Republic of Iran's [IRI] ministers of oil and employment, and remarked on his country's call for support from the IRI with regard to the return of Filipino citizens residing in Kuwait and Iraq to their homeland via IRI territory. He also expressed his joy at the growing development of relations between Iran and the Philippines.

Our country's foreign minister said for his part: For humanitarian reasons, the IRI agrees to the transit of foreign citizens residing in Kuwait and Iraq via the IRI's borders.

At the end of the meeting, the foreign minister of the Philippines expressed happiness at the acceptance of the 1975 accord by Iraq and the establishment of peace between the two countries of Iran and Iraq.

At another meeting, Mr. 'Abd-al-'Alim al-Mustahil, Omani ambassador to Tehran, submitted a message from Mr. Yusuf Bin-Alawi, Omani foreign ministry advisor, to our country's foreign minister. During the meeting, the two discussed the regional situation and international developments.

General Slavco Jovic, the UNIIMOG commander, thanked the IRI for its cooperations with UNIIMOG, and declared that the withdrawal of Iraqi forces has been fully

implemented—except in some minor areas—and in line with the 1975 accord; the UN representatives have pursued the matter by confirming the withdrawal to behind the two countries' own borders. General Jovic remarked that during his visit to Baghdad scheduled for today, he will call for withdrawal of Iraqi forces from remaining areas. He will also calculate there the geographic coordinates of the minefields in the evacuated section, and these will be made known to the Iranians, so that mine clearance operations can be carried out in the area.

Mr. Velayati expressed his gratitude to the UNIIMOG for their cooperation. He remarked: You had a difficult task which is now nearing completion, and the Iranian friends will continue to extend their sincere cooperation in the completion of your mission.

The foreign ministry advisor, the head of the headquarters in charge of the implementation of resolution 598, and the UNIIMOG commander's political deputy were also present at the meeting.

According to a central news unit report, Mr Shemshad Ahmad Khan, the ambassador of Pakistan to Tehran, also had a meeting with Mr Velayati, our country's foreign minister. He submitted a report on the outcome of the foreign minister of Pakistan's recent tour of the Arab countries of the Gulf littorals. The Pakistani ambassador, who was carrying a message from Mr. Sahebzadeh Yaqub Khan, foreign minister of Pakistan, for Mr Velayati, called for continual exchange of views between the two country's officials on developments in the Persian Gulf. His request was welcomed by Mr. Velayati.

Nationals Continue To Leave Kuwait

LD2508215890 Tehran IRNA in English 1754 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] Khorramshahr (Khuzestan), Aug. 25, IRNA—The exodus of Iranians from occupied Kuwait continued today with another group entering Iran via the Shalamcheh border after driving through Iraqi territory. The fresh arrivals swelled the number of displaced Iranians returning home following the August 2 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait to 50,000 and the number of cars to 7,000.

A Foreign Ministry representative in Shalamcheh told IRNA that there were still 40,000 more Iranians in Kuwait who could return home if they want. He said, Iraqi forces have set August 29 as the deadline for Iranians to leave Kuwait. The official added that a convoy of home-bound Iranians in their cars was currently in Basra, southern Iraq, waiting for passports and documents to be checked by Iraqi border guards.

In related news, some Indian and Pakistani citizens fleeing Kuwait via Iraq crossed into Iran through Shalamcheh Saturday. The group arrived in seven cars. More Pakistanis and Indians are expected to arrive in Iran from Kuwait following relaxation of exit formalities by Iraqi forces for nationals from the subcontinent. Until a few days back, the Iraqis were preventing non-Iranians leaving Kuwait from crossing over to the Islamic Republic.

Media Visits POW's in Al-Mansuryah Transit Camp

LD2108143790 Tehran IRNA in English 1226 GMT 21 Aug 90

[Text] Khosravi (Bakhtaran), Aug. 21, IRNA—Photojournalists, reporters and film makers of the Iranian mass media visited the Al-Mansuriyah transit camp on Iraqi soil opposite the recently evacuated Khosravi border post Tuesday and made reports and films of POWs in transit. Since last Friday the two sides have been daily swapping 1,000 POWs each at this camp under the supervision of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and representatives of the Iranian and Iraqi foreign ministries.

Over 100 large tents and a medical center have been set up at the camp. Iran's representative Dr. Malekiyan told reporters that the number of released POWs would be increased as of Wednesday but he did not elaborate. He said 10,000 Iranian and Iraqi POWs can be released daily through the Khosravi border point.

POW Groups Continue To Return From Iraq

Iraqi POW's Exchanged

LD2408191990 Tehran IRNA in English 1612 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] Khosrani Border, Bakhtaran Prov., Aug. 24, IRNA—The tenth group of released Iranian prisoners of war, numbering 1,500 were repatriated Friday afternoon through this western border point.

They were handed over to Iranian officials under the supervision of representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

In a reciprocal move, Iran handed over 1,500 Iraqi POWs to Baghdad officials under the supervision of ICRC representatives Friday afternoon.

According to the latest agreement reached between Iran and Iraq, 6,000 POWs are to be exchanged daily.

11th Batch Returns 25 Aug

LD2508175790 Tehran IRNA in English 1306 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] Bakhtaran, Aug. 25, IRNA—The 11th batch of released Iranian prisoners of war numbering 1,500 returned home to a warm greeting of their fellow countrymen assembling at Khosravi border post, western Iran, Saturday morning. The group were handed to Iranian officials at Iraq's Manzariyeh border post under the supervision of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent Societies of Iran and Iraq.

Some 27,000 POWs of both nationalities have been swapped since August 17. The POWs swap began after

Baghdad's acceptance of the 1975 border accord for which it initiated the war against Iran, and its agreement to withdraw its troops from Iranian territories they had occupied in the last weeks of the conflict.

Additional 1,500 Return

LD2508180590 Tehran IRNA in English 1631 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] Bakhtaran, Aug. 25, IRNA—A fresh batch of 1,500 Iranian war prisoners crossed into Iran and freedom through the Khosravi border post, bringing to 30,000 the number of POWs swapped by Iran and Iraq by land since August 17. Earlier in the day Iraq had delivered an identical number of POWs to Iranian officials at Khosravi under supervision of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent Societies of the two countries.

People and officials present at the spot to greet the batches embraced each and every homecoming Iranian, with kisses on the cheeks and cries of "welcome home oh freed heroes,"

Khamene'i Addresses Returned POW's on Islam

LD2608203390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Speech by Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, to released POW's at the Imam Khomeyni Mosque in Tehran on 26 August—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Respected listeners, as you were informed earlier hundreds of proud freed POW's, who have just returned to the Islamic homeland after years in captivity, this afternoon met his eminence, Ayatollah Khamene'i, esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution, at the Imam Khomeyni prayer center, and vowed allegiance to him. With this broadcast of the details of the speech delivered by the respected leader of the Islamic revolution, we bring to a close the news for this hour from the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

[Khamene'i] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted]. The fundamental issue which you, dear ones, and all Iranians should bear in mind—and do bear in mind—is that Islam, militant Islam, an Islam that relies on the will, power, and resistance of the nation, this Islam is victorious. This is not a slogan any more; it is a truth based on reality. Which of the lessons are more telling than all the lessons we have learned during the length of these past 10 years? The major powers of the world lined up and linked their arms together in an effort to bring this nation to its knees. And it was not a question of one or two days; the imposed war went by in this way for eight whole years. Islamic Iran on the one side—Of course a very small number, an ineffective number of governments and statesmen belonging to some countries expressed verbal support for our revolution, but this did not amount to anything—Islamic Iran on the one side, and behind it the leader. On the other side, all the power of the world: the U.S., the Soviet Union, NATO, reactionary governments, the riff-raff from various parts of the world: all lined up against Islamic Iran. They intended to render Islamic Iran despondent about Islam. In turn, Islamic Iran intended to show them that a nation that relied on God did not fear anything, and would not give up in the face of any threats. [slogan chanting: God is great; Death to Arrogance, to America; Death to Zionist; Death to the Hypocrites and to Saddam; Death to Israel] [passage omitted]

What was the result after eight years of war? Who was victorious? Which side finally fulfilled its demands? The anti-Islam front was forced to withdraw, and it did. One example of this withdrawal is that, today, our dear POW's are returning: One example of this withdrawal is that, today, everywhere in the world, the name of the Islamic revolution is being recalled in association with greatness everywhere. [passage omitted]

An exceptional Imam; an exceptional Ummah. Dear brothers, POW's, young persons, all the dear nation of Iran, you must continue this Islamic path with your heads held high. Islam's enemy is weak, whoever that enemy may be; don't look at their apparent strength, their loudness; they are strong opposite their own kind; they are weak in the face of Islam, in the face of spirituality, the power of faith and reliance on God. This is what the experience of the past 10 to 12 years has shown us. [passage omitted]

If you see that some people backtrack under the name of Islam in the face of Islam's enemies, it is because they only adopt Islam in name and not in conscience. Some of these reactionaries in the region who call themselves Muslims and claim they are Muslims are doing so to deceive nations by all sorts of devious means. This lot know nothing about Islam, and it is obvious that they tremble and are terrified in the face of blasphemy's forces. But true Islam, true Mohammadan Islam, is not frightened of anything, and nothing can defeat it.

We should construct and build our country, this Islamic territory, in such a way materially and spiritually that all the world's nations would agree that Islam is capable of building a nation and a country in the best possible way. [passage omitted] We hope that God may bring joy to the hearts of all those who are waiting, all over the country, for their beloved ones and their POW's or the missing. [passage omitted]

Paper Calls For Reciprocal Gesture on Hostage

NC2508103490 Paris AFP in English 0943 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug 25 (AFP)—The TEHRAN TIMES newspaper close to the Iranian Government called Saturday for a reciprocal gesture from the West after the release in Lebanon of Irish hostage Brian Keenan. The paper also urged the Iraqi Government to show its respect for humanitarian principles by releasing the thousands of foreigners trapped in Iraq and Kuwait.

Mr. Keenan, a 37-year-old teacher who also has British nationality, was released late Friday after spending more four years in the hands of his captors, believed to be pro-Iranian militants.

"The U.S., Britain, France, other Western powers should all pressure Israel to reciprocate these humanitarian moves," said the paper, which reflects the views of Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. "To demonstrate their goodwill, they can move to free Moslem hostages, especially the militant Lebanese religious leader Shaykh 'Ubayd, in Lebanon and occupied Palestine," the English-language paper said, referring to the West.

Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd was kidnapped from southern Lebanon by Israeli commandos on July 28, 1989. Pro-Iranian groups believed to be holding most of the 12 remaining Western hostages, including six Americans and three Britons, have repeatedly demanded the release of Shaykh 'Ubayd and hundreds of other Arab prisoners in Israel.

"Lebanese Moslems had every reason not to agree to the freedom of any other Western hostage but still they did in spite of the way Israelis and Americans reacted to the release of former hostages in recent months," the daily said.

The United States publicly thanked Iran after the release of two U.S. hostages, Frank Reed and Robert Polhill, in April. Ireland followed suit after Mr. Keenan was set free.

"Iran's humanitarian efforts reflect but pure goodwill and this should be realized by Ireland, Britain and the European Community," TEHRAN TIMES newspaper said. "The problem of foreign hostages in Lebanon seems to be heading for a final solution. One of the parties though has not reacted with the expected goodwill," it said, without naming the country.

Turning to the Gulf crisis, the paper said Iraq's use of foreigners as "human shields" and its occupation of Kuwait were "as condemnable" as the U.S. military build-up in the Gulf. Iran has "officially informed all countries whose nationals are caught up in Iraq and Kuwait that they can use Iranian soil as a transit course," it said.

It urged Baghdad "to show its goodwill and respect for humanitarian issues" by freeing all foreign nationals, and said the United Nations should "make a serious decision toward solving the problem of foreign subjects in Lebanon, occupied Palestine, Iraq and Kuwait."

Paper Criticizes 'Unilateral Goodwill' on Hostages

LD2508150390 Tehran IRNA in English 1347 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 25, IRNA—A Persian Daily Saturday criticized Iran's "unilateral goodwill" efforts towards the release of the Western hostages in Lebanon. In a commentary "ABRAR" pointed to Friday's statement by Deputy Foreign Minister for Europe and America Mahmud Va'esi on the imminent release of the Irish hostage Brian Keenan in Lebanon later the same day.

The statement, the paper noted, was made at a time when Iranian officials have not yet been informed of the fate of the Iranian hostages held by the Lebanese phalangists. Moreover, Lebanese combatants are still being held in jail in that country and in the occupied Palestine, the article regretted.

Following the release of a number of Western hostages in Lebanon in the wake of Tehran's humanitarian mediation, Iranian officials have emphatically called for a reciprocal move by the west, ABRAR noted. But, it stressed, so far no positive gesture had been made either by the west or by pro-Western groups in Lebanon.

"Why should the Islamic Republic of Iran's Foreign Ministry find itself committed to securing the release of the Western hostages on humanitarian grounds but no such commitment is observed on the part of the Western countries?" argued the article.

Goodwill attitude by the Iranian officials for the release of the Western hostages in Lebanon should not necessarily negate their responsibilities towards the fate of the Irania hostages and Lebanese Muslim inmates. Therefore, the paper concluded, if there is a step to be taken and an effort to be made in this connection, it should be reciprocal rather than unilateral.

Jordanian Group Meets With Karrubi

LD2508172790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] A legislative delegation from Jordan, who were invited to Tehran by the Islamic Propaganda Organization, met and conferred with Majles speaker Karrubi this evening. According to the Central News Unit, a member of the Jordanian legislature at the meeting referred to the spiritual effect of the Islamic revolution of Iran on the people of Jordan and said: People favorably disposed to the Islamic Republic of Iran had a just stance from the beginning in defense of the Islamic revolution and they paid the price by enduring hardship and going to prison. He said: Developments in the Persian Gulf reveal that the stance of the friends of the Islamic revolution is just and that Iran's principled stance arises from Islam and not from nationalism.

According to the report, Mr. Karrubi, for his part, referred to the Islamic Republic of Iran's stance and its emphasis on unity among Muslims and the rejection of arrogant forces and said: Since the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran, our country's stance has been based on friendship with Islamic nations and countries, especially regional countries. He added: Some of our neighbors, which are under threat from Iraq and which in the past adopted poorly judged positions and actions, should know that the Islamic Republic of Iran, on the basis of the principles and politicies stipulated by the great leader of the Islamic revolution, considers global arrogance to

be its enemy and that it, at the same time, condemns aggression against any country.

Velayati, UN Envoy Discuss Afghanistan

LD2508043890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] Mr. Sevan, the UN secretary general's special representative in the affairs of Afghanistan met with Foreign Affairs Minister Velayati on Friday evening.

In that meeting he submitted a report on the situation in Afghanistan and the activities of the United Nations to solve that country's problems. Referring to the important role of the Islamic Republic of Iran in solving Afghanistan's problem, he elaborated on the effects of recent regional developments on the situation in Afghanistan.

According to the Central News Unit report Mr. Velayati, also thanking the United Nations for its efforts toward solving the problem of Afghanistan, stressed the necessity for the maintenance of security and the safeguard of Afghanistan's Islamic identity.

Our country's foreign affairs minister added [announcer-read]: The only solution to the problem of Afghanistan is to safeguard the interests of all strata of that country's Muslims as well as to give the people of that country the right to decide their own fate.

The UN secretary general's special representative in the affairs of Afghanistan, in separate meetings with our country's Foreign Affairs Ministry deputies in charge of international affairs and in charge of the Asian-Pacific affairs, discussed issues relating to Afghanistan.

Final Iran-USSR Border Mass Gathering Held

LD2608120890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] Nearly 15,000 Iran-Soviet border residents have met in the border region of Sananbolaqi in Pol-Dasht. The Azeris from the Soviet Republic of Nakhichevan announced during the meeting: Since the Soviet Government has fulfilled its promises on providing the necessary facilities for visits by Iranian and Soviet citizens to each other's territory, this border meeting is to be the last of the Soviet Azeri border residents' congregations on the border between the two countries.

*Commentary Criticizes Mohtashemi's Position

90AS0301B Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 21 Jul 90 p 2

[Text] How regrettable it is that there are still individuals who are still far removed from reality. These are the people who can only see the negative side to each and every matter that comes before them and, by regarding things in this way, ignore the true interests of the revolution.

A recent example of such an attitude came up during Wednesday's pre-agenda speech in the Majles by Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi when he criticized a decision of the Assembly of Experts regarding the selection of members to the Assembly. It was decided that the Council of Guardians should decide on the qualifications of the members of the Assembly. They were able to determine the merits of the candidates to the Assembly of Experts on the basis of their being either a mojtahed (expert in Islamic jurisprudence), or a ejtahad (being an expert).

Mohtashemi's harsh criticism of the decision of the Assembly of Experts indicates that the provocative move was in all probability preplanned and had the backing of certain groups who wish to change the basic construction and bring into disrepute the credibility of the Assembly of Experts.

Nevertheless, on Wednesday the members of the Assembly of Experts, who are quite aware that the speech was nothing more than a deliberate provocation, affirmed their earlier moves to maintain the stability and safety of this sacred and vital organization.

The decision of the Assembly of Experts has in fact ensured the political health of this body and no doubt will contribute to its stability and enhance its magnitude and power.

The second focal point in Mohtashemi's criticism concerns the country's economic and reconstruction policies.

It is not clear on what grounds one can interpret the Islamic economy as identical with a fully state-controlled economy. For some time now this type of economy has lost its appeal and even its staunchest advocates have explicitly termed it a "catastrophe."

Such outmoded policies, if pursued, can only hurt the economic and industrial strenght of the nation. The advocates of an all government-run economy even criticize President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's policy to reconstruct the country's economy.

Support for the now moribund socialist and full state-run economy will not only weaken the government and the president's economic policies but will force the Islamic Republic into a deadlock and ultimately cause it to crash.

No one, however, is opposed to an all-out campaign by the government against economic terrorists. The government should prepare immediate and serious plans to halt the leech-like hold of capitalists and hoarders and those who sabotage economic plans.

*Election Rules for Assembly of Experts Amended

90AS0293D Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 25 Jul 90 p 3

[Text] Tehran, IRNA. 26 Tir/17 July-The eighth annual meeting of the experts concluded its work by amending the election law of the representatives of the Assembly of Experts.

The Experts ratified in three sessions that for every province, each population increase of one million persons will warrant another representative elected to the Assembly of Experts. In the last session, three representatives spoke as pre-agenda speakers, and then the meeting went into session.

In the beginning, the details of the proposal to amend Paragraph B of Article 2 of the law of the election of Experts was ratified as follows:

Paragraph B, Article 2. The degree of religious learning at the level that the person has the ability to understand some religious jurisprudential questions and can identify the religious guardian who possesses the requirements.

Then the details of Article 1 of the law of the election of Experts was ratified as follows:

"Article 1. The number of representatives of the Assembly of Experts in every province shall be the same as those of the first session, and from the date of the 1365 [21 March 1986-20 March 1987] census, for every one million persons added to the total population of a province, one representative shall be added.

"Note: Because of the detachment of the city of Qom from Central Province and its annexation to Tehran Province, one representative shall be added to the representatives of Tehran Province, and the number of representatives of Central Province shall be two."

Then the proposal to amend Article 7 of the law on the elections of the Assembly of Experts was examined, discussed and ratified as follows.

"Article 7. Experts shall be elected with the relative majority of votes of the participants."

"Note. If two or more persons receive the same number of votes and all are not needed, the representative or representatives needed shall be chosen by lottery."

Also, in the eighth session of the Experts, the Council of Guardians was selected as the competent authority for the candidates of the Assembly of Experts.

Pakistan

Jatoi Interviewed, Says Elections Set for 24 Oct

PM2408155890 London ITV Television Network in English 1800 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Interview with Prime Minister Ghulam Justafa Jatoi in Islamabad by correspondent Sheena McDonald in London from "The World This Week" program—live]

[Text] [McDonald] I'm joined now from Islamabad by the prime minister of Pakistan, Mustafa Ghulam Jatoi. Prime Minister, good evening.

[Jatoi] Good evening.

[McDonald] Thank you for joining us. Can I ask you first of all about your new position: Now you are prime minister, but you are there through an undemocratic means, if you like. You were not voted into that position—it is constitutional for you to be there, but not otherwise. Doesn't this effectively damage democracy in Pakistan and, indeed, the position of prime minister?

[Jatoi] Well, to start with, straight away I would like to disagree with your assessment. Certainly the office that I hold today is not an undemocratic act. My appointment as caretaker prime minister by the president of Pakistan is under the constitution of Pakistan, and the president has powers within the constitution under certain circumstances: When the affairs of the state are not being collected [as heard] under the provisions of the constitution, then he has the right to dissolve the assembly and appoint a caretaker prime minister, whose duty is to hold elections and then look after the administration for that period. If it was not a democratic act, then how is this clause in the constitution?

[McDonald interrupts] Prime Minister, I understand that it is constitutionally possible, but I'm simply asking for your opinion on whether or not such an extraordinary transition isn't a threat to what is a fragile democracy in Pakistan?

[Jatoi] You see, we are going through extraordinary conditions. The country had been pushed to a point of no return and we in the country felt that there was no other alternative left for the president but to evoke the Article 58 of the constitution and dissolve the assembly. I... In no way this is going to hurt the process of democracy, because it is a democratic step, as I stated in my first question, and no way is it going to damage the process as such.

[McDonald] Prime Minister, can I move on to the role of the military in Pakistan? There is anxiety that the political role of the military is now likely to increase.

[Jatoi] Well, this is nothing but propaganda done by the People's Party and its previous government. You have seen, and the people's party is on record having appreciated, the role of the Armed Forces for the restoration of democracy in the country; and I myself, I am a witness to what happened after the air crash of 1988. It was the effort of the Armed Forces which brought democracy back to the country. It was with their support and efforts that elections of '88 were held on time and peacefully...

[McDonald interrupts] I ask, Prime Minister, because you have supported military intervention in Sind—which of course is a change from the previous administration—which suggests that their role may indeed increase under your interim government.

[Jatoi] On the contrary, if you have read any of the reports today, some of the units deployed during the previous government and on the request of the previous government in Karachi and Hyderabad have been withdrawn since yesterday.

[McDonald] Finally, Prime Minister, elections are due in October. Can you guarantee that these will take place then?

[Jatoi] With all the forces at my command, I can assure you that we have made... we have started making full preparations for the elections...

[McDonald interrupts] And do you expect...

[Jatoi continues] ... and I...

[McDonald] The explan...

[Jatoi continues] If I can make a categorical statement: The elections will be held on time—that's on the 24th of October.

[McDonald] And do you expect the ex-prime minister, Bhutto, to be allowed to take part?

[Jatoi] Well, as of today I see no reason, but I cannot speak on behalf of the courts, on behalf of the tribunals.

[McDonald] Do you expect to be prime minister after these elections?

[Jatoi] Myself?

[McDonald] Yes, yourself. Yes.

[Jatoi] Excuse me, could you repeat your question?

[McDonald] Yes, do you expect to be prime minister after these elections?

[Jatoi] Well, that depends on the people of Pakistan—what vote that they give—and I hope for the verdict of the people.

Further Remarks on Elections, Gulf

BK2508135890 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, has reaffirmed his government's determination to hold elections on schedule and to start the process of accountability side by side, which may continue with general elections. Addressing senior newspaper editors in Rawalpindi this afternoon, he said the composition of the election commission has been completed and the commission has been geared up to complete the task. The prime minister said he has set a precedence by initiating the process of accountability of elected representatives, which will serve as a deterrent against corruption. There should be no misunderstanding about it, which will be conducted by high court judges. He said accountability will apply to all elected members of the Senate and the dissolved national and provincial assemblies of the last 20 months.

About the Gulf situation, Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi said it was under constant review of the government and his policy on the issue is clear. The Pakistani contingent in Saudi Arabia is purely for the protection of the holy places and the kingdom. The contingent will not go outside the boundaries of Saudi Arabia. He enumerated the steps taken by the government to tackle the problems caused to Pakistan by the Gulf crisis, including the repatriation of large number of Pakistanis in Kuwait and Iraq.

The prime minister also reaffirmed Pakistan's principled stand on Afghanistan and Kashmir problems.

Defends Accountability, Tribunals

BK2608162490 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi has said that the process of accountability is necessary to protect the society from looting and plunder. He was talking to newsmen at Peshawar Airport after arriving there from Wali Bagh where he went to meet Awami National Party Chief Khan Abdul Wali Khan today. He said that accountability is necessary. If the accountability is not conducted at this stage, then the future governments may also indulge in plundering the national wealth, the prime minister added. He said that accountability and elections are two different things. But these two things will continue side by side. The national wealth was mercilessly plundered; therefore, it is necessary to scrutinize the activities of those involved in corruption.

On the status of tribunals established for the accountability, the prime minister said they will be equal to high courts as they do not include any member of the administration. He said that they are entirely judicial courts.

When the prime minister's attention was drawn to the Pakistan People's Party leadership's reported intention to boycott the next elections, he said that to boycott or to participate in the elections is their headache. He said that if they are seeking a way to escape, then it is their matter—otherwise, there is nothing to justify their stand. The prime minister said that the ground is rapidly falling beneath them and the situation is turning against them and their leadership is getting frustrated with the changing situation.

On his talks with the Awami National Party chief, the prime minister said that they held talks on the political situation, the elections, and various problems in the region. He said the talks were interesting, useful, and positive.

Addressing a huge public meeting in Dera Ismail Khan this afternoon, the prime minister called upon the people to get united and defeat in the coming elections the elements which plundered the country's wealth. The rally was organized by the Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Islam, Fazlur Rahman group. He said that the way the former government robbed the national wealth is unprecedented in the country's history, adding that obstacles were put on the way of those who opposed it. Developmental activities were badly ignored in regions where the opposition members were elected. Each member of the National Assembly belonging to former government enjoyed the privilege of making recommendations for electricity supply in some rural areas, telephone

connections and for making recommendation to issue Kalashnikovs. But the opposition members were deprived of this right.

Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi said that although our foremost responsibility is to hold timely election—and preparations are underway in full swing—he will make wholehearted efforts for the development of underdeveloped areas like Dera Ismail Khan, the place he selected for beginning his tour of the country. [passage omitted]

Speaks to Former Assembly Members

BK2708054590 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] Prime Minister Mr. Ghulam Mustafa has said the sanctity and prestige of the representative institutions will be restored through elections and accountability by the grace of almighty Allah. He was talking to former National Assembly members at a dinner he hosted for them in Rawalpindi last night.

The prime minister pointed out that the National Assembly members tried their best to discharge their obligation to the public mandate even during the most difficult period, but some corrupt elements destroyed the image of the entire institution. He stressed the duty of politicians and political workers to remove any doubts in the people's minds on the democratic process. They should try to make people believe that their future is in safe hands.

The prime minister said the foremost challenge before us is to change the situation created as a result of corruption and subversion. He pointed out that we have been successful in bringing about a tangible change within a few days. The prime minister declared that those who misused the obligations by public mandate are afraid of both accountability and elections, but those with clean hands have welcomed the judicial process of accountability and are ready to go to the people for a fresh mandate.

Khan, Jatoi Briefed on Gulf, Other Issues

BK2508155990 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi attended a two-hour briefing on important matters relating to national security, the latest situation in the Gulf, the Kashmir problem, and the geopolitical situation in the region at the Joint Staff Headquarters in Rawalpindi today. The briefing was also attended, among others, by Admiral Iftikhar Ahmad Sirohey, the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee chairman; Armed Forces chiefs, and Ijlal Haider Zaidi, the prime minister's adviser on defense.

Further on Nationals' Return From Gulf Area

750 on 5 Aug

BK2508121490 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] One more batch of 750 Pakistanis was airlifted from Riyadh and Amman today. These Pakistanis reached Amman and Riyadh from Kuwait. The PIA [Pakistan International Airlines] operated one Boeing 747 and two 707 from Amman for this airlift. The PIA plans to operate 24 additional special flights from Riyadh and Amman from tomorrow to the 31st of this month to bring back over 5,900 Pakistanis.

Over 1,000 Return 26 Aug

BK2608115290 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] More than 1,000 Pakistanis who reached Riyadh and Amman from Kuwait were brought back home on board four special flights of the PIA [Pakistan International Airlines] today. The national airlines operated from Riyadh one jumbo and another Airbus flight transporting 650 Pakistanis back home. It operated an Airbus and a Boeing 707 flight to bring back 430 Pakistanis from Amman. The PIA has brought back over 6,200 Pakistanis from Riyadh and Amman by operating 19 special flights and by diverting three jumbo flights on the New York-Karachi [word indistinct] to Amman.

Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party Splits

BK2508111690 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] The Pakistan People's Party, of which Ms. Benazir Bhutto and her mother Mrs. Nusrat Bhutto are both chairpersons, has split. The party's heavyweight, Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Khar, who is also a minister in the present caretaker government, announced in Lahore yesterday that he has formed his own faction of the party.

Our Islamabad correspondent, Suresh Chopra, understands that the Pakistan People's Party is to challenge the setting up of special tribunals to try cases of corruption against Ms. Benazir Bhutto's regime in superior courts.

Interior Minister Clarifies Exit Control List

BK2608164990 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] The Senate was informed today that no former MNA [Member of National Assembly], MPA [Member of Provincial Assembly] or minister had been placed under exit control list except one.

Speaking on an adjournment motion by Mr. Javed Jabbar, the interior minister, Mr. Mian Zahid Sarfraz, said the leave of that MNA, Mr. (Burhan bin Awani) had been included not in his capacity as the member of the National Assembly, but as a businessman for facing

financial indiscipline. He explained that only 33 names had been added by the caretaker government of the 444 already on the list when he took over. All the 33 names are those of heads of various PFI's [Public Finance Institutions], banks, and government offices required in connection with investigations into malpractices.

The mover did not press his motion after the statement of the minister. The house is now adjourned to meet tomorrow morning.

AIG To Send 2,000 Troops to Saudi Arabia

BK2508154290 Lahore THE NATION in English 25 Aug 90 p 10

[Text] Peshawar—The Afghan Interim Government (AIG) has decided to send 2,000 Afghans to Saudi Arabia for the protection of the holy places.

The decision was taken by the Cabinet of AIG, which met here on Thursday [23 August]. Prof Sibghatullah Mojaddedi chaired the meeting.

A spokesman of the AIG said "the step was taken just as a gesture of our Islamic solidarity".

The Cabinet also reviewed the condition of Afghans living in Kuwait and those who have crossed over to neighbouring countries.

The spokesman of the AIG informed that the Cabinet has decided to appoint a three-member delegation, headed by National Security Minister Haji Deen Muhammad to study the situation and make necessary arrangements for the safety and relief of the trapped Afghans.